

Amal Hizbollah begin peace talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Amal and Hizbollah began three-year-old feud for supremacy in Beirut 770 people have held their first peace talks in 16 months, officials announced Friday. Amal and Hizbollah (Party of God) group in Beirut, the Amal militia and its rival Hizbollah, competing for leadership of Lebanon's civil war, agreed to a truce. The truce, which was signed in the presence of Amal's chief of military operations, Gen. Elias Haddad, and Hizbollah's leader, Hassan al-Nasrallah, was the first since January last year, took place at the Syrian embassy in Beirut. The militia sources said the participants discussed ways of consolidating a truce and implementing a peace agreement signed in Damascus last year by Amal and Hizbollah. Under the pact, fighting between the two would end. Hizbollah would be allowed to resume guerrilla activity against Israel from bases in South Lebanon; Amal would have security responsibility in the north.

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Chinese defence minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Defence Minister Qiao Zhen arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day official visit during which he will meet senior officials and visit several military and civil sites in the Kingdom. The Chinese minister and the accompanying delegation were received at the airport by Amman's Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistant for intelligence affairs, the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander, the inspectors general, the Chinese ambassador to Jordan and the Chinese military attaché in Amman. In an arrival statement, the Chinese minister lauded His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership and relations between Jordan and China.

U.S. steps up Cyprus efforts

NICOSIA (R) — The United States is working vigorously to reunite the divided island of Cyprus, Washington's special Cyprus coordinator Nelson Ledsky said Friday. The U.S. envoy said he had completed a round of talks with both Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders this week and hoped to revive the reunification talks in the next two months. "The United States government is recommending itself to work diligently and with all deliberate speed to bring about a fair, just and lasting Cyprus solution," he told reporters after talks with Cypriot President George Vassiliou. "I came to Cyprus certainly committed to the notion that we can get a negotiated successful solution," Ledsky said.

Uzbek president declares emergency

MOSCOW (R) — The president of Soviet Uzbekistan said Friday ethnic violence was spreading into his republic from neighboring Kirghizia and asked Moscow for help to prevent further escalation. TASS news agency said Islam Karimov imposed a state of emergency in a number of districts around Andizhan, on the border between the two republics, and appealed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to help quell the fighting. In Fuzhou, capital of Kirghizia, thousands of mourners poured silently into the central square to honour the victims of four days of fighting between Uzbeks and Kirghiz which has killed at least 78 (see page 8).

Former Costa Rican president dies

SAN JOSE (AP) — Former President Jose Figueres died Friday at the age of 83, the office of the president said. Figueres died at home in San Jose, presidential spokesman Ana Lorena Vargas said. Figueres, who was elected president three times, abolished the army in 1948. The cause of his death was not disclosed, Vargas said.

Britain grants £3 million for Sudan relief

LONDON (AP) — Britain has allocated £3 million (\$5.1 million) for Operation Lifeline Sudan, the government said Friday. One-third of that amount was allocated to the International Committee of the Red Cross for operation in southern Sudan, and the rest went to several non-governmental organisations, Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, said in a written statement to the House of Commons. Britain contributed £7.2 million (\$12.2 million) for Operation Lifeline Sudan in 1989, she said.

Israel says PLO expanding control in South Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli military official said Friday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had expanded its control in South Lebanon near the Jewish state's northern borders. Zeev Zalkharin, who heads the PLO's now-controlled 25 kilometres deep strip of land stretching from the coastal port of Sidon to the town of Jezzine near Israel's self-declared "security zone" in Lebanon.

Badran accuses Israel of paralysing peace efforts

By Alister Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Prime Minister Madad Badran accused Israel Thursday of using trivial pretexts to paralyse progress towards a Middle East peace settlement. "Israel set complicated conditions to meet Palestinians and the aim was not to make peace easier — even the Americans found them paralyzing," Badran told Reuters in an interview. For Israel to dispute the inclusion of Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories in a Palestinian negotiating team was stupid, he said.

"If we want to get stuck on trivialities like that... there is no sincere attempt to tackle the issue of peace," said Badran, who began a second term as premier in December. He criticised prolonged Israeli efforts to form a new government and said inducements to small parties to back Labour or Likud were complicating the broader peace effort.

"During this period the Israelis have been trying to run from peace under the pretext that there is no government. This has deflated American efforts to move the situation," he said. Israel's coalition government collapsed in March over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Shamir rejected a suggestion Thursday from Israeli President Chaim Herzog that he enter talks on a new coalition yoking his Likud bloc with the Labour party led by Shimon Peres, who advocates acceptance of Washington's ideas. Badran said a side of Soviet Jewish immigrants and more Israeli settlements in occupied Arab land were blocking peace.

"The Israelis are removing the basis for peace. There is no way to peace through hegemony and settlements," he said. Badran suggested that freedom for Soviet Jews to go to Israel be linked to progress towards a Middle East settlement.

Shamir Monday refused to give guarantees sought by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Soviet Jews would not move to the occupied territories. Israel says it is not encouraging them to settle there.

Badran said that even if Israel gave such guarantees, Moscow and Washington should jointly monitor observance of the pledge. Israel expects up to 250,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants to arrive this year and up to a million over the next few years.

Amman fears they will displace Palestinians from the West Bank and force a new wave of refugees across the Jordan River.

"We just cannot take another exodus," Badran said, citing severe water shortages in Jordan, which has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since the creation of Israel in 1948.

The prime minister voiced satisfaction at the outcome of last month's Arab summit in Baghdad, despite the absence of Syria. "For the first time the Arabs said

specifically the security of Jordan is part of Arab security. This is important for us because anything concocted in the West Bank lands in our face."

Badran said he hoped Syria would attend the next Arab summit, to be held in Cairo in November, and Jordan would continue efforts to end the rift between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and his rival Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Arab leaders responded well to Jordan's appeal for financial aid at the Baghdad conference, Badran said.

"Matters have been settled and the picture is now bright," Badran said of the Arab summit. "The promises (of financial aid) are genuine and it's a matter of days."

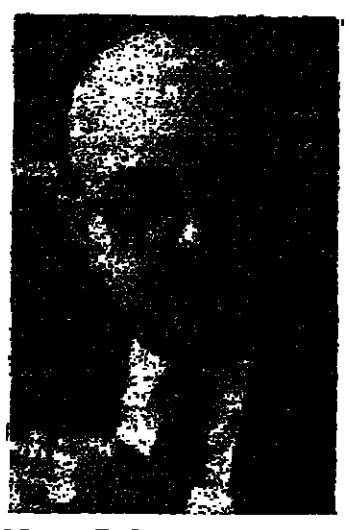
Badran also said his government was striving to reduce the budget deficit and increase Jordan's self-reliance, in line with economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

He said the IMF was impressed with progress already achieved on expanding exports, cutting imports and squeezing spending since the programme began in 1989.

The government would try to spend no more than JD 70 billion (\$105 million) on food subsidies this year, but the cost could balloon to JD 100 million (\$150 million) "if things stay loose," Badran said.

The budget allotted JD 60 million (\$90 million) for subsidies, which cover sugar — the costliest item — wheat, rice and milk for babies. Meat subsidies were ended early this year.

Badran said the government was planning to target subsidies to the needy, but did not say when this would happen. He described last month's protests



Madad Badran

in Jordan as a release of past frustrations as well as a response to the May 20 murder of eight Arabs by an Israeli gunman.

"It was a good lesson in democracy for the Low House of Parliament and the people, and I don't think it will recur," he said of the unrest in which four people were killed.

Asked if pro-Syrian groups and Muslim extremists had incited the violence, he said he had heard Al Quds radio, run by the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, calling on refugees to "rise up."

"Any recurrence means it is part of a hostile plot against the country executed by foreign intelligence agencies," he said.

Members of parliament and the public must learn that Jordan's nascent democracy involved responsibility and respect for the law. "Democracy is a very new experience for us... and the people and the authorities need time to absorb it. It's a matter of time and patience, but I am convinced that the future of this country lies through democracy," he added.

Abed Rabbo cautions U.S. against breaking dialogue

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian official warned Friday that any American decision to cut off its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will disqualify Washington from playing a constructive role in the peace process and will provide a green light to an escalation of Israel's moves aimed at suppressing the Palestinian uprising.

"Such a decision will amount to an American declaration that it is unable to play a positive and constructive role in the Middle East peace process," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told the Jordan Times. "But doing so, the American administration would be succumbing to the Israeli right and, determined to exclude the PLO, will look for an alternative representative for the Palestine people," said Abed Rabbo, who headed the Palestinian side to the 17-month-old dialogue side.

The Palestinian official's statements came amid contradictory reports from Washington about the American administration's decision to suspend the dialogue in response to an aborted naval attack against Israel by the tiny Palestine Liberation Front.

The PLO Executive Committee, which met in Baghdad last week, issued a strong worded statement accusing the U.S. of "protecting Israel and its crimes."

In the interview with the Jordan Times, Abed Rabbo indicated that the PLO was still determined not to comply to American conditions regardless of the American reaction.

In the PLO's view, the American attitude towards the dialogue will reflect the U.S. strategy in the Middle East rather than a reaction to the threatened escalation of the violence.

"The U.S. will have to make a choice: it will either opt to play a constructive role in the Middle East process or disqualify itself from such a role and provide a green light for a wide scale Israeli suppression (of the intifada)," Abed Rabbo said.

If the U.S. chose to suspend the dialogue, Abed Rabbo predicted, "it will encourage a fierce Israeli crackdown on the Palestinians and an unlimited massive influx of Jewish immigrants to Israel."

The Palestinian official, who had intently studied the dialogue, said that the U.S. was going back to its "pre-dialogue strategy by pursuing its own efforts to find an alternative for the PLO."

"They expected us to agree, through the dialogue, to exclude ourselves and even less a substitute but when they failed they are going back to their old strategy by trying to find such an alternative on their own," he said with an unconcealed amount of cynicism.

He reiterated that the PLO was determined to seek a tough Arab stand in accordance with the extraordinary Baghdad Arab summit resolutions against any country which expresses hostility towards Palestinian rights.

The summit, which concluded May 30, committed the Arab governments to take political and economic measures against countries which facilitate Jewish immigration "to Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories."

The summit called on a meeting for administration would cite the guerrilla raid and the PLO's failure to condemn Mohammad Abbas, leader of the PLF.

Meanwhile, U.S. President George Bush said Friday that he was considering breaking off talks with the PLO in the wake of the guerrilla raid.

Bush, speaking with reporters on a midwestern political trip aboard Air Force One, was asked about a report in the Washington Times that the administration has decided to break off the dialogue.

"I'm not prepared to make an announcement on policy at this point," Bush said. However, he said, "our dialogue is predicated on a renunciation of terror. In my view, this is sheer terror."

At the NATO conference, Baker said the administration is seeking more information on the raid.

He said a decision on the U.S.-PLO talks would be made "when we are satisfied we know all we need to know."

Bush said he'd like to see Arafat "speak out... I've expressed my outrage about the attack," Bush said. "Maybe I can take this opportunity to express my outrage about all the violence in the Middle East."

Asked if he was to cut off the U.S.-PLO dialogue, Bush said, "we are discussing all of that. No decision has been made."

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the

Russian federation declares supremacy

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, declared Friday that its constitution now took precedence over Soviet laws, TASS news agency said. The Russian Federation parliament, led by rebel President Boris Yeltsin, approved by 544 votes to 271 an article which declared that Soviet law which conflicts with sovereign Russian rights "are suspended by the republic on its territory." TASS added. It said a full declaration on sovereignty for the Russian Federation, which includes 160 million of the country's total population of 280 million, would be ready for endorsement by the middle of next week. Yeltsin, an outspoken critic of Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, declared after his election as Russian president two weeks ago that he would push the law through. He also reserved the right of the Russian Federation to secede from the Soviet Union. But he has said he is not proposing this step. The Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia took a similar move as a first step to the later declarations of independence.

Shamir coalition seeks to end intifada, expand settlements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday announced formation of a right-wing coalition cabinet after signing an agreement with a string of far-right and religious factions and a defector from the rival Labour Party.

Guidelines of the new government, the first fully controlled by Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc since 1984, promised to "uproot" the 30-month Palestinian uprising and expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Shamir announced the government was formed after a ceremony for the signing of the coalition agreement.

"The major effort of the government will be made on the most important issue we are facing today, the absorption of the mass immigration," Shamir said, referring to the thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"Together with that we'll deal with all the other issues, advancing the peace process, solving economic and social problems," he said.

Friday's agreement would give Shamir a majority of 62 votes in

the 120-member Knesset, or parliament.

Shamir telephoned President Chaim Herzog to report the new coalition, fulfilling the legal requirement before his 42-day mandate for putting together a coalition ran out at sundown with the beginning of the sabbath.

A vote can now be scheduled in the Knesset, possibly as early as Monday.

Shamir's government, once approved in the Knesset, would end the political uncertainty that has gripped Israel for nearly three months as first Labour leader Shimon Peres and then Shamir tried to bring together a cabinet.

A Likud-Labour "unity" government fell apart March 15 in disagreements between the two parties over whether to take part in U.S.-proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

Close election results have forced Likud and Labour into power-sharing arrangements since 1984 in which the ideological chasm between the two parties often stymied political action.

Policy guidelines accompanying the new coalition agreement

pledge the government will keep open its initiative to hold elections for Palestinians in the occupied territories as a first step towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

However, the far-right members of the new government will probably lead Shamir into more tensions with the United States, which has been urging Israel to make concessions to Palestinians to revive the stalled peace process.

"Barring a miracle, Shamir will find himself in direct conflict with the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, the Palestinians and the Arab World," diplomatic commentator Akiva Eldor wrote in Haaretz newspaper.

The coalition's policy guidelines said the new government would work to "strengthen, expand and develop" Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the biggest source of friction between Israel and Washington.

"Settlement in all parts of the land of Israel 'is the right of the

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis seal off Gaza home

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — The Israeli army Friday sealed the home of Mazen Bakr, an activist accused of involvement in killing collaborators. Twenty-one people live in the house.

In the same neighbourhood, dozens of soldiers raided the home of Mahmud Rayyes, searching for his son Attif, 18, who has been wanted by the Israeli authorities for eight months.

Palestinians said the soldiers threatened to demolish the family home if the family did not hand over the youth to the army.

In the occupied West Bank, 120,000 Palestinians were under curfew for the fourth day in the city of Nablis and surrounding refugee camps.

A Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel was found dead in the main street of an occupied West Bank village Friday.

Emad Al Salem, 25, named as a collaborator in leaflets by activists of the Palestinian uprising, was killed in the village of Zibad, near Tulkarm.

NATO welcomes Warsaw Pact shift

TURNBERRY, Scotland (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Friday welcomed radical plans for change in its cold war adversary, the Warsaw Pact, and committed itself to further talks on deeper cuts in armed forces across the European continent.

The alliance's 16 foreign ministers, at the end of the two-day meeting in Scotland, reaffirmed that a united Germany should be a NATO member but also said they would take into account Soviet concerns about this.

"Our alliance is not a threat to anyone," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference.

He said the alliance wanted to create a new landscape where no country would threaten any other. "It is clear that the Soviet Union would gain even in a situation where Germany was a member of our alliance," he said.

Baker: No decision to break off dialogue

TURNBERRY, Scotland (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Friday Washington had not decided whether to break off dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for its failure to condemn an attempted guerrilla attack on Israel.

He told a news conference at the end of a NATO ministerial meeting in this Scottish town: "When we are satisfied we know all we need to know, we will act in a way which reflects our commitments to promoting peace but being resolute in condemning terrorism."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat is resisting U.S. pressure to condemn the attack carried out on May 30 by the Palestinian Liberation Front, a faction of the PLO.

Arafat distanced himself from the operation, saying the PLO's "institution and official forces" had no connection with it.

A senior U.S. source said American officials had already had three or four meetings with the PLO about the issue and that Baker would soon make a decision about the future of the talks.

In Washington, diplomatic sources quoted by the AP said the United States had decided to suspend the talks with the PLO and would announce it next week.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the

Underdog Cameroun defeats Argentina

MILAN (AP) — Cameroun, which finished the match with only nine players, scored a 1-0 victory over defending champion Argentina Friday in the opening game of the World Cup soccer tournament — one of the biggest upsets in the 60-year history of the championship.

Francois Omam Biyik scored the only goal of the game in the 66th minute after Cameroun had been reduced to 10 players. Defender Andrea Kassa Biyik was ejected in the 62nd minute for a foul on Argentine substitute Claudio Caniggia.

Biyik scored after the Argentine defence failed to clear a freekick from the left. He was given a free header, which he directed downwards. Goalkeeper Nery Pumpillo let the ball slip under his body.

Defender Benjamin Messing also was sent off in the dying minutes after a blatant foul on Caniggia.

The Cameroun team played rugged defensive soccer and repeatedly threatened Argentina on the counterattack.

Argentine captain, Diego Maradona was frequently fouled by the Cameroun defence, but otherwise had little impact on the game.

Cameroun maintained its remarkable unbeaten record in World Cup play. It drew all three of opening round games in 1982, but was eliminated because its group rivals scored more goals.

The teams were level 0-0 at halftime but the African team played impressively throughout, creating a number of scoring opportunities with quick interplay.

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See page 7 for full story

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Multi-party system faces major test in Algeria and Tunisia

ALGIERS (AP) — The readiness of voters in Algeria and Tunisia to accept multi-party democracy is being put to a decisive test in local elections Sunday and Tuesday.

In both countries, the governing party — which has held sole power since French colonial rule ended decades ago — is virtually certain to win control of a large majority of councils.

The main question in the two North African neighbours is the level of support amassed by radical Islamic groups among voters unaccustomed to being given a choice.

In Algeria, where Tuesday's election will be the first under a multiparty system, fundamentalist groups have aligned under the banner of the Islamic Salvation Front. Its candidates are running in almost all the 1,541 municipalities and provincial councils.

But in Tunisia, where the government has withheld official recognition of Islamic groups on the ground that God belongs to all Tunisians, the fundamentalists have declared an official boycott of Sunday's elections. Thus, the anti-government sentiment will be gauged by the number of

abstentions.

The elections will be the second time Tunisian voters have had a free choice.

In legislative elections in 1988, the ruling Constitutional Democratic Rally won every seat in the National Assembly. Opposition parties later accused the ruling party of having abused its control of state funds, transport and mass media.

This year, said the Tunisian periodical *Maghreb*, "all the elements are present. There are numerous determined opposition parties, there is a dominating and self-assured party in power, a state sworn to impartiality, thousands of ballot boxes and the voters ready, for once, to go to the theatre. And yet the play will not be performed. It is a sad spectacle."

By contrast, a genuine election contest is expected in Algeria, where almost all parties will compete and have proclaimed in advance that they will accept the

results.

However, the Algerian situation is not simple.

Many democratic parties — seeking an alternative to both the government and the fundamentalists — have entered candidates. But they are divided, in some cases more hostile to each other than to the ruling National Liberation Front. One coalition, the Front of Socialist Forces, has called for an election boycott despite its potential for a strong showing.

Another factor is the position taken by the followers of Ahmad Ben Bella, the former president ousted by the military coup in 1965 and now an exile in Switzerland. Both the National Liberation Front and the fundamentalists have urged backers of Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria to join their side, but Ben Bella has given no endorsement.

The future stance of the powerful Algerian army also remains in doubt. The fundamentalists are openly calling for military intervention to establish an "Islamic republic," but senior army officers seem more likely to support a state free of religious

interference.

In Tunisia, where the result in the 246 municipalities is a foregone conclusion because of the opposition boycott, the number of abstentions may convey the extent of opposition to the government of President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali.

But the figure will not distinguish between fundamentalists and genuine democrats, allowing the two mutually hostile wings of the opposition to claim their own supporters were responsible for the bulk of the abstentions.

In both countries, the vote is for a list of locally selected party candidates. In each, an official result may not be announced for several days.

In one respect, the two voting systems differ sharply.

Tunisia has a Western-style one-person, one vote system resulting from a modern family code established by former President Habib Bourguiba. In Algeria, the family code is based on Islamic principles, and a man can vote on behalf of his wife or wives without the need to produce any document authorising him to do so.

Meeting of Polisario, Moroccan aides termed successful

GENEVA (AP) — Moroccan officials and leaders of the Polisario Front in Western Sahara ended their first joint round of talks Thursday, and the chief U.N. representative spoke of a "great step forward" to a settlement.

The three-day "technical" meeting was designed to help prepare a referendum in the 285,000-square-kilometre territory to offer voters a choice between independence or integration with Morocco.

The talks were the first meeting of the desert tribal chiefs supporting the pro-independence Polisario Movement and those backing Morocco, since Morocco annexed most of the former Spanish territory in 1976.

Johannes Manz, special U.N. representative to the territory, said he "good hopes that we will succeed because I have noticed the desire to have a settlement."

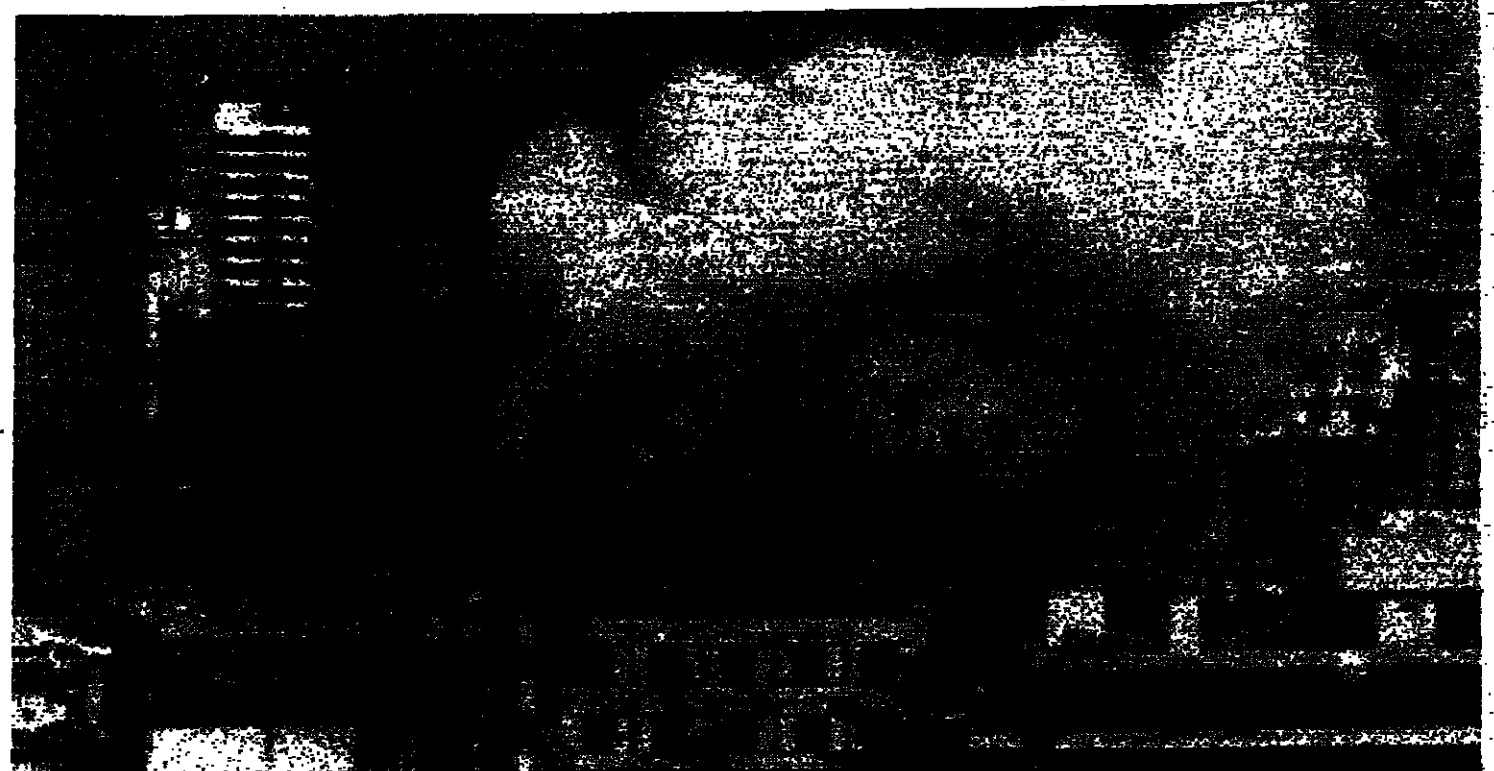
Nineteen leaders from each side attended the talks. Many told reporters that the fact that members of the same community "who have not seen each other for 15 years" sat down to approach the problems jointly left him convinced that the meeting was "really a great step forward."

In the talks, the U.N. officials sought suggestions from both sides how to update a list of eligible voters based on a 1974 census held by the former Spanish administration in the territory. That census put the population at 76,000.

Polisario claims that about 165,000 Saharans live under its administration in and near the Algerian oasis of Tindouf, but Morocco says they are ineligible to vote.

For its part, Morocco says 90 per cent of the people living under its administration are eligible voters, but Polisario contends that most of them are Moroccan settlers.

Manz said both sides agreed that the Spanish document should remain the basic reference paper for the work preparing the referendum.



Smoke billows over Astrafyeh residential area in east Beirut as rival Christian forces blasted each other with artillery and mortars during a recent escalation of the fighting.

Sectarian amity rekindled as Christians escape east Beirut to Muslim areas

By Rima Salamah
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Many Muslim and Christian families are reaching out to help each other survive, finding common ground in the suffering wrought by 15 years of civil war.

Mazen, a Sunni Muslim who lives in mainly Muslim west Beirut, ran the gauntlet of snipers to drive into east Beirut to rescue Joseph and his family, Christian friends trapped by fighting between Christian factions.

"I knew I could get killed, but these are my friends," Mazen said. "I couldn't bear the idea of them under that murderous shelling, without food or water. I knew that if I didn't bring them... they'd never think of coming here."

Mazen, Joseph and several Christians interviewed after fleeing east Beirut asked not to be identified further. The Christians fear being harassed or killed by the warring factions if they return to Christian east Beirut.

The 15-year-old civil war has created religious and psychological barriers for many Lebanese, deepening the sectarian divisions that always have festered.

Now, some of those barriers are eroding because of the suffering inflicted on Christians by the months-long battle between the forces of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces militia.

Police say more than 200,000 people have fled the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave north and east of Beirut, where 1 million lived before the battle began on Jan. 30.

Tens of thousands, like Joseph and his family, have found sanctuary in Muslim areas. Some returned to villages they fled years ago.

It is impossible to predict

whether the new Christian-Muslim coexistence will expand or help end the war, in which more than 150,000 people have been killed.

More than 1,000 people have been killed, most of them civilians, in the fight for control of the Christian enclave. It is the worst fighting between Christians since the civil war began in April 1975.

Many Christians fled Lebanon through the port of Jounieh, north of Beirut, where ferries from Cyprus regularly run through shellfire to pick up Christians.

Street fighting in the enclave eventually blocked roads to Jounieh, however, and thousands of people like Joseph found themselves with no choice but Muslim areas as a refuge.

They also found an unexpected welcome.

"The Muslims didn't kill us and eat our flesh as we'd been told by the Lebanese Forces," Joseph said, relaxing in Mazen's house with his wife, Feriel, their 6-year-old son, Tony, and baby daughter Rana.

"We've made a lot of Muslim friends here. We have breakfast with one family at their home and we're invited to lunch at another. We meet these people every day now."

"Our Muslim friends showed the children with toys and clothes, although my financial situation is far better than theirs," said the 36-year-old real estate agent.

Lebanon has at least 17 Christian and Muslim sects that lived side-by-side for decades, usually in clearly defined areas, but often in mixed communities. It was a fragile unity, but it worked.

The region north of Beirut was the heartland of Maronite Catholics, the dominant Christian sect. Maronites controlled the govern-

ment, parliament, judiciary and army after Lebanon's independence from France in 1943, which fostered jealousy and animosity among Muslims.

After the war began, Christians were driven from Muslim areas in the Shouf Mountains, west Beirut and the coastal plain south of the capital.

Many Christians have remained in west Beirut, especially leftist Greek Orthodox, but tens of thousands of refugees, mostly Maronites, packed into east Beirut and the shrinking Christian enclaves.

Joseph and Mazen were introduced eight years ago by a mutual friend, an army officer now fighting for Aoun. They kept in touch and Mazen regularly slipped into east Beirut to visit.

Mazen said he decided to try rescuing Joseph's family because "I knew they would never think of seeking refuge in west Beirut."

He set out in his small car during an afternoon hill in shellfire and entered east Beirut through the Museum Crossing, the only gateway between the two sectors.

"There was a lot of sniper fire," he said. "I had to take a long way around to Joseph's house... the trip normally takes 15 minutes. That day it took me two hours... Joseph had mixed feelings about coming with me to west Beirut, but I insisted."

"Finally, I asked him, 'do you think you and your kids can take much more of this?'" He said no, and we started packing."

Joseph said: "I realized that if we stayed in east Beirut, we'd be committing suicide. Our house had already been hit. It was either die... or take our chances in west Beirut."

Christians who sought refuge at the Sunni Muslim Ibbad Al Rahman Mosque in west Beirut also

were overwhelmed by Muslim hospitality.

"They gave us mattresses, pillows and blankets," said a woman who gave her name as Hala. "They gave us everything we ask for — meat, rice, bread and water."

Hala fled to the Muslim sector a few weeks ago with her 11-year-old daughter, her sister, niece and mother.

Abu George, a farmer, is among about 70,000 Christians who have sought sanctuary in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon.

"We were living on the edge of death," he said. "After several days in the underground shelter, we ran out of water, flour and food."

He took his seven children for his old village of Deir Al Ahmar, where they were given a welcome he was not sure they would receive.

"It was like going from hell to heaven," he said.

Another 80,000 Christians have gone to South Lebanon, including many families who were driven out of the region years ago.

Some found Muslim squatters, themselves refugees, living in their old homes. Many of the Muslims agreed to share the houses.

Most villages around the hill town of Majdelyoun were occupied by Muslim families who abandoned their own ancestral homes in the Israeli-occupied zone just north of the border.

"They've been displaced like us," said Fadwa, a housewife with two children who returned to Majdelyoun from east Beirut.

"We've been living together for the past few weeks and we're having a great time. The kids play together and the women prepare lunch."

Amal offers to swap bodies of 2 Israelis with PoWs

MSAILEH, Lebanon (AP) — Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri Friday offered to exchange the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for the more than 300 Arabs held by an Israeli-backed militia in South Lebanon.

"We've told the International Committee of the Red Cross that we have the bodies of two Israeli soldiers and we're willing to exchange them for all the detainees at Khiam Prison," Berri told a news conference at his vacation home in this southern resort.

Israel's proxy force, the mainly Christian South Lebanon Army (SLA) holds some 350 detainees at the prison inside Israel's self-

proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"Israel wanted to make sure that the bodies were those of the Israeli soldiers. But we told the ICRC 'no.' First Israel has to accept in public the principle of a swap, then we'll allow an examination of the bodies," Berri said.

An Israeli defence official said on May 17 that the Jewish state wanted proof that the Syrian-backed Amal has the bodies of two Israeli soldiers.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, said Israel had no information that Amal was actually holding the bodies.

"If Amal believes that the bodies are those of Israeli soldiers, let it first submit evidence to this effect," he told the Associated Press.

"Only after we're convinced the bodies are in fact those of Israeli soldiers will there be room to negotiate the matter," he stressed.

Berri did not name the Israelis. But he was understood to have been referring to two soldiers, Yossi Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh, captured by guerrillas in South Lebanon in February 1986.

Pro-Iranian Shi'ite militiamen affiliated with the fundamentalist

Hizbollah, or Party of God, are believed to be holding the pair.

It was not clear how any exchange that might be negotiated would affect the fate of 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon, most of them believed held by Iranian-backed Shi'ite extremists.

The militants, and Iranian officials, have said some of the Westerners could be freed if the Khiam prisoners are released. Israeli officials have said they would like to see Western hostages included in any exchange.

Berri made no apparent reference to other Israelis missing in Lebanon.

Kuwaitis elect new assembly Sunday

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti men, possibly the world's wealthiest electorate, vote Sunday for a controversial new National Assembly that would recommend the shape of democracy in the Gulf Arab state.

The 62,000-strong, all-male electorate will elect 50 of the assembly's 75 deputies. The Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will appoint 25.

A vocal opposition group led by former deputies is urging a boycott of the elections on the grounds the assembly will be ineffectual and unconstitutional.

A nephew of the Emir, in a speech which diplomats said reflected government thinking, warned Wednesday against boycotting the polls.

His remarks, which defended the proposed house, received wide coverage in the state-censored press.

Sheikh Jaber, at the helm of the emirate for nearly 13 years, said the assembly would review Kuwait's past parliamentary experiences and recommend to the government the future shape of democracy.

The house's recommendations will not be binding.

A welfare state of high-rise buildings and eight-lane highways,



Kuwait has had a democratic heritage without equal in neighbouring states since independence in 1961 from Britain.

Sunday's elections will be Kuwait's first since 1985 when voters elected a 50-seat chamber that the Emir dissolved a year later, citing a foreign conspiracy to destabilise the country at the height of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The former deputies have demanded the return of the 1986 parliament since they began their campaign late last year.

They have set up committees in each of the country's 25 constituencies to urge voters to stay

away from the polls.

"There can be a fairly respectable turnout Sunday, but it is the number of valid votes which one has to watch out for," said a Western diplomat, referring to the possibility that opposition supporters would cast invalid votes.

There have been strong rumours that the authorities might take action against state-employed voters who boycott the polls.

Western diplomats say the group's support was mainly among professionals, some wealthy merchant families and intellectuals. Most of the 348 candidates contesting the 50 seats, they say, are politically unknown.

Like almost everything else in Kuwait, whose oil and vast foreign investment rate it among the world's richest nations, election campaigning was something of an extravaganza.

Candidates have invested heavily over the past two weeks, setting up huge tents of fete supporters with lavish banquets.

Local press reports said an election campaign can cost as much as 30,000 dinars (\$100,000), a hefty sum considering that some constituencies have as few as 1,400 eligible voters.

Saudis restrict Thai pilgrims after military training report

BANGKOK (R) — Saudi Arabia has scrapped plans to fly Thai pilgrims to Mecca after receiving reports Thai workers sponsored by Iran in the Middle East had been given military training, senior Thai officials said Friday.

Riyadh had planned to send eight planes to Thailand to carry Thais to the annual pilgrimage to Mecca next month.

It has cancelled those flights but will allow Thais to travel on other airlines, the officials said.

They quoted Thai intelligence sources as saying 2,000 Thai Muslims had gone as workers to Middle East countries under Iranian sponsorship in the last few months. The sources said some were given military training, but did not specify in which countries.

Iran has challenged Saudi Arabia's right to sovereignty over Mecca and the pilgrimage has been the scene of bloody battles between Iranian Shi'ite Muslim pilgrims and Saudi security

forces.

Thailand has consulted closely with Saudi Arabia over the reports of military training, the Thai officials said. The Saudi embassy had no immediate comment.

In February, three staff members of the Saudi embassy in Bangkok were shot dead in the street in an attack that severely strained relations between Bangkok and Riyadh.

The motive for the killing was never publicly established. Police said the killings were linked either to international terrorism or a dispute over the lucrative business of supplying Thai workers to the Middle East.

Thai Foreign Ministry officials met parliamentarians representing southern Muslim-dominated constituencies and tour operators Friday to settle the problem of about 5,000 Thais unable to obtain flights to Mecca.

Some Muslim groups in southern Thailand have become in-

creasingly militant in campaigning for their interests, including the right to wear Muslim dress at school.

In the 1970s, a guerrilla group planted bombs and attacked government offices to back demands for a separate Muslim state in the four southernmost provinces.

In a separate development, one thousand one hundred and fifteen Thai workers, whose work permits were withdrawn by Saudi Arabia, will begin to arrive in Malaysia later this month to help complete the university Uray Campus, it was reported Friday.

The New Straits Times daily quoted the university's vice-chancellor Othman Yeop Abdullah as saying that the workers were specialists in plastering, steel binding, carpentry and other work. The Human Resources Ministry was in the process of approving their work permits and they would begin to arrive later this month.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:20	Korona
15:20	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:25	Educational programme
18:50	News summary
19:05	Message from Iraq
19:25	A play by Shakespeare
19:30	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Champs Elysees
19:40	News in French
19:45	Aujourd'hui en France
19:50	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Surgical Spirit
21:00	Encounter
21:30	Musical programme
21:45	News in English
22:00	World Cup: Italy vs. Austria
22:30	Allo... Allo...
PRAYER TIMES	
05:50	Fajr
06:25	(Sunrise) Doha

12:35	Dhuhr
14:15	Asr
19:45	Maghrib
21:15	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	
Assamblies of God Church, Tel. 772621	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 20 / 35
Aqaba	25 / 40
Deserts	19 / 38
Jordan Valley	23 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 37, Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hamdi Al Zureiqi	783708
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz	793344
Dr. Yousef Hossaini	625478
Dr. Yehya Abdul Rahman	736074
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nazroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Selam pharmacy	636750
Yacoub pharmacy	644945

Shameel pharmacy	637660
REPAIRS:	
Dr. Ali Al Omari	(—)
Al Siara pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Mubashir Hiji	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891226
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630261
Hotel Complaints	661900
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(—)
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Cable Immediate	010230
Central Amman Telephone	(—)

Repairs	623101
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malika, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeel	664174
Shmeel Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushar Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	660273
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641

University graduation ceremonies begin

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday attended the graduation of a new batch of students from the University of Jordan. The King will deliver certificates to the 515 higher studies graduates at a special ceremony.

University President Mahmoud Al-Samir will present the university degrees to students graduating with bachelor degrees in arts and law Tuesday, while students of economy, administrative sciences, Sharia (Islamic jurisprudence) will receive their degrees on Wednesday.

Graduates from the medical, engineering and technology faculties will be awarded their certificates in another ceremony which will be held June 16, while students graduating from the faculties of agriculture and science will be receiving their certificates on June 17.

The number of university graduates this year totalled 3,912, divided among the various faculties. Graduates from the Faculty of Arts number 593, while those graduating from the Faculty of Law are 150, and 450 from the Economy and Administrative Sciences Faculty.

The number of graduates from the Sharia Faculty is 224 and the number of graduates from the Education Faculty is 624, while the number of those graduating from the Faculty of Medicine is 329, engineering and technology 307, the Agriculture Faculty 236, and sciences 354.

Tawjihi examinations set to begin June 12

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is making preparations for the second session of the general secondary school certificate examination (tawjihi) which begins June 12, according to an announcement by Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obaidat, director of examinations and evaluation at the ministry.

He said that the second session of examinations, which would last until June 25, will also be taken by students in Tunis who follow the Jordanian educational system.

A total of 66,302 students who were registered for the first term examination last January are expected to sit for the second session, Sayel said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that 857 halls would be made ready for the students who sit for examinations in the literature, science, commerce, agriculture, industry, nursing and hotel management streams.

Sayel said 9,000 teachers have been assigned the task of supervising the examinations. According to current regulations, a combination of the results of the two sessions of tawjihi will make up the final result. The Ministry of Education plans to scrap the present examination system in three years from now.

A ministry statement said last December that as of the 1993-4 scholastic year, tawjihi students will be sitting for only one examination session at the end of the school year.

The plan, the ministry said, will be in implementation of the 1987 national educational conference's resolutions which also provided for a set of modernisation programmes to overhaul the education system in the Kingdom.

Ministry officials expect that evaluation of the students' examinations will be completed before the end of July, well before the reopening of universities and community colleges for the 1990-1 academic year.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Jbour, Qarat families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday delegated his advisor for tribal affairs Shari Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah to convey condolences to the Jbour and Qarat tribes over the death of Sheikh Bashir Ben Kharabeh Al-Jbour. The King also delegated the assistant chief of protocol, Abdullah Al-Sirhani, to convey his condolences to Qarat family over the death of the mother of Mohammad Rashid Qarat, the Royal Palace telecommunication officer.

Hot weather conditions until Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The country will continue to be affected by hot weather conditions until Sunday evening and temperatures will drop gradually from then, according to the Meteorology Department. The department attributed the current weather condition to a hot air mass coming from India through the Arab Peninsula. The hot mass caused a high increase in temperature which reached 38 in Amman Thursday, thus exceeding average annual temperature during the season.

TCC delegation returns from Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahid Ismail and an accompanying delegation returned home Thursday at the end of a several day visit to Syria where they attended a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Sub-committee on Telecommunications. The committee adopted a number of decisions and recommendations designed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of telecommunications. Ismail and Syrian Communications Minister Mohammad Murad Al-Kuwatli, held a meeting Thursday morning and reviewed the outcome of the sub-committee's meetings.

Sakhra mayor appointed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the appointment of Abdul Karim Mohammad Al-Momani as mayor of Sakhra in Ajloun district.

Gammo named acting awqaf minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued appointing Sheikh Abdul Baqi Gammo, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, as acting awqaf and Islamic affairs minister during the absence of Ali Al-Faqir who is on an official mission outside the country.

ATF team to visit Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — A 20-member delegation from the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) starts a visit to Morocco June 17 in response to an invitation by the Moroccan Ministry of Youth. An ATF source said that the visit comes as part of the forum's plan to promote better understanding and friendship among Arab youth.

Police foil smuggling attempts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Customs authorities last month foiled several attempts to smuggle hashish, gold and foreign made cigarettes into the Kingdom according to customs department officials. They said that customs patrol teams in May seized 20.38 kilograms of hashish and 65 kilograms of gold concealed in a private car in the course of entering Jordan. They said other teams seized 2,063 cartons of foreign cigarettes and unspecified amounts of electrical appliances and hand watches.

24 summer schools for secondary level

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 25 summer schools will be opened for students in the secondary level within the Greater Amman region, according to an announcement by the Department of Education in Amman region. Students have been informed about the benefits of the summer classes, which are offered free of charge, and many have registered for them, according to the acting director of the department, Abdul Latif Al-Sheikh. Summer classes are being organised in the government schools within Amman and only a JD 10 registration fee will be charged from each student for the entire duration of the course. The classes begin July 1 and will last for a whole month. Apart from academic courses students are also to be given sports lessons, and training in the use of computers, typing, weaving, dressmaking, arts and music.

Islamists tipped to put up strong showing in Ruseifeh

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Just above 50 per cent of the registered voters in Ruseifeh had cast their votes in the municipal council elections after a second day of voting came to an end Friday. Local observers predicted that at least half of the nine seats on the council would go to organised Islamists.

The balloting process in Ruseifeh was extended by 24 hours Thursday evening because of a low voter turnout in the first municipal elections held in this northeastern town in seven years.

Only 41 per cent of the registered voters had voted by Thursday evening, and Zarka Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki decided to extend the voting period in order to give those who had no chance to vote. Thursday was an official workday and most of Ruseifeh male populace work till 4 p.m. in the afternoon, Shobaki pointed out.

According to municipal officials, female voters had a relatively high turnout Thursday, but by Friday evening, when the ballots boxes closed, only 4,858 out of an estimated 11,041 female voters had cast their ballots. In contrast, the male voter turnout was said to be relatively low Thursday, but the final showed that 6,812 out

of 12,114 male registered voters had cast their ballots by Friday evening.

In a municipality which has 20,000 registered Palestinian refugees a polarisation of local elections was expected by local officials who said Thursday's and Friday's elections went smoothly.

Five official blocs ran on tickets which hailed slogans professing support for Islamic fundamentalism, "moderate" Islamic politics, pan-Arab nationalism and an array of leftist ideologies.

Fourty-one candidates running on the five blocs and three independents were aiming to lure voters to the polls for the past month to decide on who will fill the municipal council.

Almost each bloc is a combination of people who are affiliated with different political currents no individual bloc was expected to claim a landslide victory. First results were expected sometime after midnight Friday.

"The Islamists are expected to claim a majority as in many other municipal elections across Jordan but we don't expect them to take the council by storm," one longtime observer said.

The following are the names of the candidates and their blocs:

The "Labour Bloc" Musa Saad, Ali Miri, Abdul Rahim Ghadeer, Mahmoud Abdul

Razzaq, Abdul Wahab Musa, Ahmad Najjar, Mohammad Jathan, Zahi Jaraduka, Ahmad Najiz. The bloc is made up of mostly political liberals and centrists.

The "National Reform Bloc" Subri Faraiga, Ahmad Mbeideen, Mahfouz Abu-Hanish, Aref Al-Kaddoumi, Zahair Awida, Dr. Hikmat Freihat, and Hamed Al-Kutub. This bloc is considered to represent mostly pan-Arabist and leftist trends.

The "Iman Bloc" Dr. Majed Hatab, Anwar Dajeh, Hassan Abed Al-Ghany, Mohammad Abu Liel, Salah Al-Rowhne, Ahmad Azam and Ali Fahmawi. The Iman Bloc is reportedly an Islamic group which supports Fateh.

The "Islamic Labour Bloc" Youssef Zaglou, Fawzi Khalifeh, Shukri Said, Nafeth Al-Krablie, Asad Sabah, Mamdoub Nathem, Abdullah Abuhiera, Oma Azam, and Abdul Al-Rarak Al-Kiesse. This bloc is reportedly backed by the Muslim Brotherhood.

The "Populist Bloc" Ahmad Daher, Mohammad Raja Isteti, Mohammad Antaki, Khaled Massoud, Younis Abu Libbe, Hmoud Al-Saket and Issa Al-Kinawi. The bloc is reportedly made up of candidates aligned with pan-Arabist movements.

The three independent candidates were Aki Shbikat, Akram Talal Azie and Issa Grenawi.

CAEU to request Kuwait to reconsider decision

(Continued from page 1)

CAIRO (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) has decided to send a letter to Kuwait, asking it to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the council. At the conclusion of its 53rd session, held here, the council decided to postpone the discussion on moving the council's headquarters to Cairo in response to request by Cairo, pending further consultations on the issue between Jordan and Egypt.

The CAEU approved an inter-Arab tax coordination programme and adopted lists of items for exports proposed for exchange among Arab countries. The lists were presented by Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya and Egypt.

The council called on the secretariat to invite specialised Arab organisations and funds for a joint meeting to formulate a joint strategy to serve Arab economic work. The council also called on member states to settle their financial contributions to the council for the year 1990.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al-Sharab, Mohammad Asad and Hani Khazaleh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rafiq Al-Laham at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ German film entitled "Geboren 1949" (Born 1949) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

TURKISH FILM WEEK

- ★ Feature film entitled "Hanging Time" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

RJ posts slight profit

JD 236.5 million whereas the airline's bank deposits, including receivables, amount to JD 107.5 million, leaving an overall debt of JD 129 million," Ghandour had said.

Abu Ghazaleh refused to comment on the discrepancy in the figures or the accounting practices used by the former management. "While the airline showed a JD 1.7 million in profits in 1987, using the new accounting regulations there would be a JD 21 million loss for the same year," he said.

Abu Ghazaleh explained that the new accounting system recognised dead losses that "could never be recovered" and wrote them off and replaced the "operational lease" method, in effect during 1987, with the "capital lease" method.

According to the financial report, which is not officially released yet, pending approval by the board of directors and the Council of Ministers, "the effect of adopting the new accounting method was an increase in assets of JD 192,314,908 and an increase in liabilities of JD 181,642,627, while the cumulative effect on the 1988 results has been a further loss of JD 3,066,986."

Although the airline's decree stipulates that the government is committed to cover any losses incurred by the corporation, the RJ official, who insisted on anonymity, said that the government is not "at all likely" to cover the losses.

Official sources said the government would not cover the 1988 losses and that it expected the airline "to manage on its own." When the Badran government took office in early December, the airline's newly appointed management sought a government guarantee for a \$100 million loan, "said a government official, who insisted on anonymity. "The government then urged the airline to manage the loan itself and the airline did," he said.

Abu Ghazaleh stressed that RJ's creditworthiness remained sound as evidenced by the airline's ability to obtain financing for the leasing for

the A-320s. He refused to comment on how the airline will cover the losses if the government refuses to provide assistance.

According to the report, operating losses in 1987 and 1988 were due primarily to a "vast over-stretched network" with very low yield, especially on the longer range U.S. and Far East routes. "In the second half of 1988, exchange rates of the dollar almost halved compared to major foreign currencies. Since the major part of RJ's revenue and expenditure (70 to 80 per cent) was in hard currencies, their JD value by 1989 almost doubled," the report said.

In order to reverse the trend of operating deficits, especially after the government's insistence on self-reliance by the airline, the management implemented an austerity plan — a "route network consolidation strategy" — which involved cancellation of flights on certain routes and cutbacks on others as well as a 20 per cent cut in current expenditure.

The strategy, initiated in the third quarter of 1989 and maintained since then, "allowed operating expenditure to grow at a far slower rate than operating revenue resulting in a minor surplus in 1989 and a substantial operating profit for 1990," according to the report.

Abu Ghazaleh said the airline expected to post a slight profit during 1990 but would not give an anticipated figure.

The report said that "a substantial improvement in the net surplus for 1990 is projected with capital gains on the sale of excess flight equipment which was made possible by the implementation of the route network consolidation strategy adopted by the airline." Abu Ghazaleh said he had called off plans for a press conference to announce the RJ situation. He said he was expected to go before the Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee to present a briefing on the situation and might hold a news conference after that.

Shamir announces coalition

(Continued from page 1)

Jewish people and an inseparable part of national security," the document said.

Shamir said he had not yet finalised cabinet posts but sources in his Likud party said a troika of hardliners — David Levy, Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Modai — would receive the key ministries of foreign affairs, housing and finance.

Dubbed the "constraints ministers," the three forced Shamir last July to accept headline restrictions on his initiative for Palestinian elections.

While the new government's policy guidelines reaffirmed the initiative, they also added one key constraint — ruling out Palestinian elections or self-rule in Arab Jerusalem.

There was no mention of Secretary of State James Baker's proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. Likud Minister Ehud Olmert said there was no reason for the new cabinet to reconsider its rejection of the plan.

Here are some of the names expected to appear in Israel's new cabinet, according to Israeli army radio Friday.

Prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir (Likud)
Defence minister, Moshe Arens (Likud)
Foreign minister, David Levy (Likud)
Housing minister and head of ministerial committee dealing with immigrant absorption, Ariel Sharon (Likud)
Transportation minister, Moshe Katzav (Likud)
Interior minister, Ariele Deri (Shas)
Communications minister, Rafael Pinhasi (Shas)
Tourism minister, Gideon Patt (Likud)
Health minister, Ehud Olmert (Likud)
Education minister, Ze'evulun Hammer (National Religious Party)
Religious affairs minister, Avner Shaki (National Religious Party)
Science minister, unnamed (reserved for Tehiya)
Agriculture minister, unnamed (reserved for Tzomet)

Three other portfolios — economic planning, police, and environmental protection — are to be distributed among David Magen and Ronnie Milo, both of Likud, and a third minister who has not yet been named.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Thursday presents certificates to Amman Baccalaureate School (Petra photo)

ABS holds graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al-Hassan Thursday attended a ceremony for the graduation of the Amman Baccalaureate School and distributed certificates and awards to its 50 graduates.

Dr. Ibrahim Kazem, representative of regional director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony noting that school students in the Arab World will reach 66 million by end of the present century.

of the coming century, he said, will be facing conditions and circumstances totally different from those of their fathers in the present century.

The school principal and graduates also addressed the gathering.

Defendant in Zarqa tribe murder case pleads mental instability

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A youth who has confessed in court to have committed a triple murder in Zarqa in October last year is maintaining a plea of mental derangement at the time of the crime, according to legal sources.

The defendant, 23-year-old K.H. who is accused of killing his father, step-mother and a three-year-old half brother, has already been examined and certified normal by the mental hospital, but the defence is now seeking the court to have a panel of specialised psychiatrists to examine him further, the sources said.

According to the sources, the defence argument says that the youth has a record of "mental disturbances and uncontrollable behaviour" and it had caused his discharge from the Armed Forces.

Furthermore, the argument goes on to say that the youth, who was unemployed, was under the influence of drugs and alcohol when he entered

his father's house with the intention of stealing money on Oct. 10, 1989, the sources said.

"The defence is trying to establish that the defendant was mentally unstable at the time of the killings and therefore cannot be held responsible for his actions," said a source close to the case. "The mental hospital has certified him sane, but the defence is pushing for further examinations to establish that he had psychopathic tendencies," said the source speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

According to court documents, including a confession from K.H., the defendant, who was accompanied by a 17-year-old friend, was caught in the act of stealing by his father. A heated argument ensued and the defendant repeatedly stabbed his father with a knife, his friend ran away in panic. The defendant's step-mother pleaded him not to kill her but he chased her into the bedroom and stabbed her to death, according to the documents.

Then the defendant also killed his three-year-old half brother who was watching the attacks, but spared his seven-year-old half sister whom he tied up with an electrical cord before fleeing the scene of crime, taking JD 1,700 from the house.

The defendant and his friend were arrested by police for drunken behaviour a few hours later. Upon the discovery of the money with him police questioned both as robbery suspects. His friend broke down and revealed the actual crime, which until then was not reported by anyone, according to the legal sources.

Police proceeded to the scene of crime and discovered the bodies.

K.H. was charged with first-degree murder and robbery, and his friend as an accomplice but tried as a minor by the court. In his confession, K.H. says he regrets his actions, the source told the Jordan Times.

The court has already heard the case in five sessions, and the next hearing is set for June 13. Legal sources expect several more sessions before the verdict is pronounced.

AMRA HOTEL

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'Crazies' in charge!

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's "right-wing crazies" government is the clearest message yet that Israel is not yet ready or interested in peace with its neighbours. This conclusion is fortified by the fact that Shamir's chosen partners in the government seek, inter alia, to flood the occupied Arab territories with Jewish emigrants and toughen measures to quash the Palestinian intifada. And with Ariel Sharon at the helm of the ministry charged with settling Jewish immigrants, there is no other way to interpret the make-up of Shamir's projected government except as a rebuff to all nations that seek to prevent the Jewish immigration issue from spreading into an unstoppable and deadly cancer in the whole area.

Having opted for a right-of-the-right government in the wake of the Baghdad Arab summit, the Israelis have in effect sent a signal to the Arab capitals that Arab decisions bear no impact on their policies. Likewise the make-up of the new Israeli coalition is a resounding rebuff to Washington which was hoping that any new government would endorse U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian side. It would be interesting to watch what the U.S. government intends to do about the new course in Israeli politics, if it has intentions to do anything at all.

The least that the Arab side would expect from the U.S. under the new circumstances is recognition that its appeasement policy towards Tel Aviv has been bankrupt on every count. Uppermost on the minds of the Arab side which has invested heavily in U.S. brokering peace in the Middle East conflict is whether Washington would continue to be satisfied with the expression of pious remarks about peace in the area or it would rise up to the challenge and speak and act more forcefully and effectively about at least its own peace plans. For how long is the U.S. going to tolerate the torpedoing of one U.S. peace plan after the other by its so-called friend and strategic ally at a time when it is capable of implementing such plans by a demonstration of a more genuine endorsement of its own initiative? Washington owes it to the Arab World to translate, for once, its declared aims into deeds. Is it possible that the U.S. is capable of producing only one Dwight Eisenhower in a hundred or a thousand years? We would like think not.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL RA'I welcomed Iran's decision to respond favourably to Iraq's call for direct peace negotiations. The paper said an Iran-Iraq summit will deal a devastating blow to the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations. Hostile forces have over the past years gained a great deal, thanks to the continued hostility between Iraq and Iran and throughout the eight years of war, hostile forces have benefited from conspiring against this nation in different ways, it said. Indeed, these forces have been seeking to impede any solution to the Gulf conflict and any improvement of relations between the Arabs and Iran, the paper said. The fast-moving developments on the international scene and the formation of various economic blocs worldwide have prompted Iran and Iraq to move closer to each other not only to thwart enemy plots but also to launch close cooperation for safeguarding common interests, the paper added. It took a great deal of courage on the part of the Iranian and Iraqi leaderships to decide on this very important step after eight years of conflict, said the paper. It hoped that the two countries will now find a solid ground on which to build their future fruitful relations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said Iran seems to be in a very comfortable situation, enough to allow it to open serious negotiations with Iraq to end the Gulf conflict and reach permanent peace. Rafsanjani, the Iranian president, has mustered enough courage following the supremacy of the moderate factions in Tehran to announce at a press conference that his country will respond to Iraq's call for direct negotiations, Mahmoud Al Rimawi said. Whether it was the moderate factions in Iran which prompted Rafsanjani to take this step or pressure from the world community and the United Nations or even Arab mediation, one has to admit that the positive Iranian move was mainly prompted by Iraq's position and its president's determination to reach a final settlement with Iran, Rimawi wrote. Indeed, one has also to admit that Iran stands to gain from the peace situation, which is bound to improve its relations with the Arab countries so that it can turn its attention to handling internal issues and improving national economy, he wrote. Iran's conflict with Iraq had been costly, and it sapped the nation's strength, and the decision to reconsider Tehran's position vis-a-vis Iraq was indeed a brave move, responding to a similar brave overture on the part of Iraq, the writer noted. He said that it is time that both Iran and its neighbouring Arab and Islamic countries pooled their resources to deal with the common Zionist enemy and confront aggression on any Arab or Islamic country.

Al Dustour commented on Israel's angry reaction to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's warning that unless Israel took serious action to prevent Soviet Jewish immigrants from settling in occupied Arab lands, the Soviet Union would reconsider its decision of allowing free emigration of Soviet Jews. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir triggered the outcry which was echoed in the United States by the Zionist lobby which in turn unleashed a furious attack on Gorbachev and is now gearing for a new offensive to ensure that the Jewish immigrants will continue to flow uninterrupted into occupied Palestine, the paper said. Indeed the Zionist movement has already started a wide scale campaign in Washington aimed at forcing the U.S. administration to exercise a form of blackmail on Moscow to make it succumb to Israel's desires, the paper said. The Zionist movement hopes to enlist Washington's threat to Moscow that no trade agreement will be implemented unless Moscow relented and allowed the Jews to leave for Palestine, the paper said. The paper praised Moscow's initial position in this matter and expressed hope that Gorbachev will adhere to his statement and translate his words into deeds.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Arab psyche came forth in Baghdad

By Kamel S. Abu Jabr

ON WEDNESDAY afternoon, May 30, 1990 I sat and watched with great interest and fascination the final session of the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad. I, like millions of other television watchers throughout the Arab World and beyond, were treated to a rare glimpse of how the Arab leaders treat each other. The atmosphere was anything but formal. The leaders who spoke, with the exception of the ruler of Kuwait spoke, extemporaneously. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, in his colourful traditional costume, looked pleased with himself, and at ease with his colleagues. His talk seemed to come from somewhere in the Arab psyche: simple, uncomplicated and direct. On several occasions he drew laughter from the other Arab leaders; and though what he said was extremely serious he stated it in the most natural and straightforward way.

If the atmosphere revealed anything it was a spirit of comradery and congeniality. Most likely it was brought about by long acquaintance not only with each other, but with the issues they were dealing with. The anecdotes told by some of the leaders, Saddam Hussein, Qadhafi and some of the others, emphasised the cultural unity of the Arab World above all else. And though they displayed a variety of costumes, adding an exotic colour to the occasion, these men understood each other. Why is it that this cultural unity that binds every Arab to every other Arab, has not succeeded in translating itself into the realm of politics? "Only barrels" on "our borders" placed by the colonial powers, "separate us", declared the Libyan leader. The why are we still separated? The Italians have left! If so why not remove the barrels? why not meet on a regular basis? why

not draw up a grand plan; a strategy that truly links the national to the super Arab national security? why are we not able to operate as if we truly belong to the same nation? why are there rich and poor Arabs?

On the level of oral expression and verbalisation the leaders, like most of their subjects, or citizens, seem not only articulate but also deeply aware of the issues at hand, and the dangers lurking ahead. Yet, meeting after meeting have been held, and the entire Arab World seems to be continuing in not only sliding backwards, but down wards as well. Something is definitely wrong. Everyone knows that, yet no one seems to have either ability or the will to do anything about it. Is it our oral tradition? Our fascination with the word and our penchant to think that if only we say something it will

occur? Is that why we are excellent not only in poetry but in prose as well, but continue to shun the complications of the scientific method?

As I watched I became deeply aware that our leaders, after all made of the same material of their people. Cloth of the same cloth. Uncomplicated, frank, jovial and open hearted. And though the atmosphere was tense and the issues at hand momentous, the leaders, like their peoples, created moments of light heartedness. Human beings speaking to other human beings. Folks, family men bewildered by the ruthless hatred and efficiency facing them.

May be that is the ultimate power that we possess: our candid and uncomplicated manner of addressing even the most dangerous issues of our lives. Saddam put it most simply when he stated that we, can

accommodate the Jews while Qadhafi remarked that if the Israelis have the "atomic" we have the "population" bomb. As simple as that!

The conference was initially convened to consider Soviet Jewish immigration and the imminent and strategic danger that this entails. Here, like in most other matters. The summit considered, the words were strong on the local level. Yet the summit even failed to agree on the wording of a letter to be sent to the Superpowers summit, to meet one day after the conclusion of the Baghdad summit. What has been accomplished? Has anything been solved? We still have the matter of Jewish immigration as well as the cruel treatment Israel is meting to the Intifada. How can we convince Israel that it must realise that peace is better than war? How can we face the next few years that promise to be more cruel and much gloomier

than the years that passed?

Who moves who? Does America move Israel or is it the other way around? And now, in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet political power and the grim reality that this creates, are we better or worse off?

No one is addressing any of these questions. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that we seem to have learned nothing from the recent past. We continue to live our daily lives jumping from one crisis to another solving none and further adding to the confusion and disarray.

Had the times been more relaxed and the nation not so much in danger, we could afford to live a day at a time. Our continued lack of a vision of the future, and plan for it, is one of the most important elements in the strength of our enemies. Enemies that want us to remain disunited, distracted and fragmented.

Time is against Gorbachev

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Mikhail Gorbachev pleaded for time during the Washington summit — to reform the Soviet economy, to devise a new system to save his country's crumbling union.

But U.S. experts say time is something that is fast running out for the beleaguered Soviet leader despite the international — if not the domestic — boost his Amer-

ican visit provided. "I don't think we have ever tackled tasks like this in the history of our country. I don't know whether anybody else has been able to resolve so many tasks within such a short period of time," Gorbachev told a press conference with U.S. President George Bush at the end of their four-day summit.

He implored for understanding.

For one thing, he said his government was working on reforming its federation to expand the rights of increasingly restive republics who are demanding more autonomy if not, like Lithuania, outright independence.

"A full federation is something that we are in vital need of (and) in the next few days there's to be a federation council meeting convened to consider specific steps, dates and ways of resolving this particular problem in specific, concrete terms," he said.

This process may result in "different levels of federative ties" among the Soviet Union's 15 republics, he predicted.

But if any republic insists on outright secession, it must follow the constitutional process and this is likely to take six or seven years, Gorbachev said.

He specifically mentioned Lithuania, against whom Moscow imposed economic sanctions as penalty for declaring independence.

Four months ago, when independence movements were less advanced, a senior U.S. official told Reuters he believed Gorbachev could yet devise a formula to keep the Soviet Union together — except may be for the Baltics.

The Baltics, claimed by Moscow in a 1940 Hitler-Stalin pact, are seen by many in the West as likely to eventually succeed in breaking away regardless of what Gorbachev does.

As for creating a new system that could appease other republics and prevent them from also seceding, "that was easier to accomplish several months ago,"

Burma's 'people power' triumphs but under military threat

By Elaine Kurtzsch
The Associated Press

RANGOON — Burma took a tentative step towards democracy in the impoverished nation's first free elections in 30 years, but despite an overwhelming opposition victory, Burmese are still cowed by military control.

The opposition scored a huge victory over conservative, pro-military forces in a May 27 vote. Tallies show the parliament will be overwhelmingly dominated by the regime's harshest critics, the National League for Democracy. The military has promised to yield after newly elected legislators enact a constitution and form a civilian government. But many express concern over whether the military will be able to wean itself from power.

In 1988 Burmese took to the streets to press for democracy, briefly triumphed, then were brutally crushed by army gunfire. The 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew is nightly reminder today that the military still holds power.

And already the junta, led by General Saw Maung, has said the army won't tolerate "threats to national unity," a vague phrase that in the past has been used to justify crushing dissent.

The tense political scene is complicated by economic malaise and ethnic insurgencies, which could be interpreted as threatening national unity.

And within the league, relatively inexperienced young radicals are vying for control with a more moderate senior faction. Another flash point could prove to be Aung San Suu Kyi, the dynamic opposition leader.

Just as in the Philippines the "people power" revolution united behind Corazon Aquino, much of the league's popularity comes from Suu Kyi, who led Burmese in the 1988 uprising.

The 44-year-old former housewife and academic, however, was barred from participating in the vote and remains under house arrest, accused of subversion. Officials allege she has links to insurgent groups and have indicated she won't be freed any time soon.

The military barred other opposition leaders from participating in the vote and imprisoned hundreds of league members, the opposition has said.

The league and its supporters dread a replay of 1988, when the army killed several thousand, mostly unarmed civilians who rose up against authoritarian rule.

The year began with smaller protests led by students who wanted an end to the one-party rule of Gen. Ne Win. He seized power in 1962 and turned the

formerly prosperous nation into one of the world's poorest.

The protests culminated in massive, nationwide demonstrations by civil servants, professionals, Buddhist monks and some military personnel.

The protestors were already celebrating what they said was the triumph of peaceful revolution.

But as was to happen the following year in China, the short-lived triumph turned to bloodshed when the military decided enough was enough. Several thousand people were gunned down by troops in what was by most evidence a far bloodier suppression of democracy than in Beijing.

Saw Maung then declared martial law and arrested thousands of porters. But he also called for general elections and allowed political parties to form, albeit within strict controls.

This time around, Burmese confined their protests to the polls.

Their overwhelming support for the New Democracy League left no doubt about their thirst for both political and economic change.

"I'm so happy to see those old cronies who devastated the economy leave the scene," said a retired civil servant.

"We have suffered a lot under the military," said a younger man. "I'm happy that now we will have good leaders."

If the military allows it, the leaders will come from the league, composed of Suu Kyi's more radical followers hungry for revenge, as well as moderate, older leaders favouring a cautious approach in dealing with the junta.

"Our first priority is to build a strong government so that people will be comfortable," said one league official. "We want to sow the seeds for democracy so that our country will never again be ruled by arms."

This is not the first effort at democracy in modern Burmese history. After independence from Britain in 1962, a parliamentary democracy was established.

But factionalism, rebellions by ethnic groups, and other problems plagued the fledgling experiment. The army stepped in on several occasions and finally seized power in the 1962 coup led by Ne Win.

Ne Win retired in 1988, and some say his withdrawal from the political arena contributed to the election triumph of the league for democracy. Others believe he is still pulling strings behind the scene.



said Soviet expert Dimitri Simes of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"A confederation (formula) would have to be looser today and with every day, it is becoming more difficult to devise," he told Reuters.

With Gorbachev's chief political rival, Boris Yeltsin, now president of the Russian republic, even that central core of the Soviet Union is beginning to demand greater sovereignty.

Yeltsin recently threatened to sign a trade pact with Lithuania, and Gorbachev Sunday sharply criticised him as likely to complicate efforts to restructure Soviet society.

Gorbachev "seems to have a blind spot" on independence movements "and is now faced with the dilemma of people wanting more than he wants to give

them," Madeleine Albright, president of the Centre for National Policy, told Reuters.

Washington should want a peaceful solution to the ethnic and political unrest. A breakup in the Soviet Union could bring "massive instability" to a key region, she said.

The fear that chaos could be unleashed may be behind Bush's handling of Lithuania with Gorbachev. Bush reiterated U.S. non-recognition of Moscow's incorporation of the Baltics but was restrained in his disagreement.

On the economy, American critics, including congressmen who met Gorbachev, urged swifter moves towards a market system.

The Soviet leader repeatedly resisted this, saying his country, in the midst of dramatic change, had to move slowly to create a

market structure from scratch.

More compellingly, he argued "people are scared" by the changes wrought, including higher prices. But he insisted nothing would stop the reforms.

Bush has made a strong point of wanting Gorbachev to succeed and the summit seemed designed to give him a boost.

But analysts like Simes say Washington is "making an inordinate investment" in Gorbachev while dismissing new leaders like Yeltsin.

He and many others predict Gorbachev — sooner rather than later — will have to accept a coalition government in which power with Yeltsin and others must be shared.

Under such a scenario, Bush may find his welcome in Moscow at the next superpower summit somewhat less cordial, they say.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



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Jordan does not have a real drug abuse problem but is used as a transit point for trafficking drugs into neighbouring countries.

Drugs — a cry from within

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN never really had a problem of drug abuse, according to officials who agree that the Kingdom had been and continues to be a transit point for drugs despite intensified efforts by security forces. They point to recent busts of several huge drug consignments as an indication of the increased vigil by the Anti-Narcotics Bureau. However, there has been a gradual rise in the number of drug users in the Kingdom and experts say that while the situation is "very much" under control, close supervision is essential to prevent escalation of drug use by Jordanians.

Experts in the field of drug abuse in Jordan confirm that the increase in the number of Jordanians involved in drug trafficking, the entry of new and different kinds of drugs to Jordan as well as the increase in the number of addicts are only the symptoms of the secret crawling of an infectious disease, threatening the poor and the rich alike, the learned and the illiterate, the married and the single.

"If there is something to be done, it is our children that we must help from the enormous error that we have committed; to keep them away from the bad company that destroyed our lives and our future," says Z.M.R., a 35-year-old prisoner in Swaga Prison who has been sentenced to five years for drug trafficking.

"I address my plea to all the authorities, to anyone concerned about his children and his family, to those who are on the edge of getting involved in the deteriorating business of drug trafficking or drug addiction... I say that because I have suffered, and it was a long and hard path to get over, and because my wife and my children, the most beloved to me,

are the ones who have been the victims of my irrational behaviour."

Z.M.R. was tempted by a friend of his in Jordan to get some hashish for himself, a portion of three kilos of which 500 grammes were for himself. Before he was imprisoned, he was a sales manager in Saudi Arabia and a graduate from a marketing institute in West Germany. Yet now, he seems to prefer continued imprisonment to being set free.

"I do not want to get out. Where will I go? And how can I find my wife and my daughter again? I haven't seen them in four years, and what if they left the country and I am stuck here; you know that I am obliged to stay in the country without a passport," he said, trying to suppress his tears.

Along with his other colleagues who were imprisoned for related drug crimes in Swaga and are estimated at 255 out of 1200 prisoners, many share the view that there are many more traffickers and addicts outside the prison who are not aware of the dangers of such a business and who may fall into the trap one day and suffer from the consequences.

"We cannot deny that the Jordanian security measures are very effective; says Sabri Rbeihat, a Major in the Public Security Department (PSD) and a criminologist. "But yet we don't really know the exact size and all the dimensions of the drug problem, and we are not equipped to deal with this kind of problem."

Research conducted by the National Committee for Anti Narcotics, which is comprised of the Ministries of Health and Education, PSD as well as many other concerned public and private institutions, reveal that only ten per cent of the actual amount of smuggled drugs is seized.

According to official figures,

there are now 389 prisoners convicted of drug related charges in all Jordanian prisons. The number of people involved and consequently arrested for drug related crimes has risen from 97 in 1980, of whom 57 are Jordanians, to 345 in the year 1989, including 152 Jordanians, according to PSD statistics. Also, the number of drug-related court cases soared from 33 cases in 1980 to 115 in 1989.

ety for Psychological Rehabilitation, "most patients who took hard drugs started taking them abroad, and they shifted to tranquilizers or treatment when they come back."

"At present, this problem is getting more and more dangerous and the use of heroin is spreading extensively in the neighbouring Arab countries," Dr. Sarhan said. He added that this phenomenon "constitutes a problem."

Al Mughrabi, in his book entitled "Hashish Addiction Phenomenon," various studies affirm that drugs usually have the opposite effect to what was intended by users generally and that the basic effect of drugs is a depressant one, and sometimes has the effect of reduction or elimination of sexual desire.

While hashish was the most used drugs in Jordan, the committee pointed out that barbiturates like Valium are extensively abused in spite of a policy that bans their use without a prescription. However, there are no statistics on their use in spite of the serious implications of its spread in the country.

Although young people are the most susceptible to drugs, the statistics of the national committee point out that 70 per cent of the addicts are married, probably indicating familial problems and worries faced after marriage. Also, while 52 per cent of the addicts are between the age of 21 and 30; statistics show that 42 per cent of drug users are between the age of 31 and 40.

Interestingly, among top of the users of drugs in Jordan are bus, truck and taxi drivers; they constitute 27 per cent of drug addicts, according to the national committee. Private businessmen constitute 26 per cent of users.

Most of the drugs addicts come from Amman or from the refugee camps; 406 addicts in the capital of 200 from Zarqa and the neighbouring camps; 350 from Irbid and the neighbouring camps while 50 are from Salt and 58 from Aqaba, five from Karak and ten from Madaba, statistics show.

Yet, despite all the implications that the Kingdom is ahead of a serious problem of drug abuse, "Jordan is still considered as a transit point between countries of production in the north and countries of consumption," Dr. Rbeihat said.

"I address my plea to all authorities, to anyone concerned about his children and his family, to those who are on the edge of getting involved in the deteriorating business of drug trafficking of drug addiction... I say that because I have suffered, and it was a long and hard path to get over it, and because my wife and my children, the most beloved to me, are the ones who have been the victims of my irrational behaviour."

— A prisoner convicted of drug trafficking.

"The introduction of drugs into Jordan is mainly due to the fact the Jordan is an open country, and to the high number of students studying abroad who come into contact with different types of drugs," explains Brigadier General Ghalib Al Zoubi, director for the Anti Narcotics Bureau.

A 26-year-old addict says that he took the drug for the first time when he was 18 years old while he was at college in the United States. "I met Jordanian and American friends who tempted me to try marijuana. Later on I became addicted to other types of drugs such as heroin, hashish and tranquilizers. It is not until I had many problems that I decided to try to give up the whole affair and I came back to Jordan."

According to Waleed Sarhan, a psychiatrist and Director of the Jordanian Soci-

Other addicts of different types of drugs agree that their addiction started with smoking hashish with friends. The statistics of the national committee indicate that 69 per cent of the addicts in Jordan used the drugs for the first time with friends in the same age group. The report also points out that the addict always tried to tempt others to take drugs.

The report specified the reasons for their trial of drugs as follows: Fourteen per cent tried them out of curiosity, six per cent to feel happy, five per cent to increase their sexual pleasure, four per cent take it to get rid of feelings of depression and sadness, three per cent to alleviate their feelings of anxiety and worry, one per cent to get rid of boredom, and 36 per cent for other reasons.

Yet, according to Dr. Saad

No sex, we play football

By William C. Hilday
Associated Press Writer

ROME — To win the World Cup, some soccer coaches will go to any lengths — even banning their players from making love in the land of amore.

This year's World Cup, a monthlong tournament involving 24 teams, is being played in Italy, the home of Romeo and Juliet, a country known for romantic songs, a place that to many people is synonymous with love.

So, for some Italians and soccer players, it seems ironic — even scandalous — that Italian soccer coach Azeglio Vicini has asked his players to swear off sex during the world Cup.

But to others, Vicini's prohibition didn't seem unusual because, after all, soccer-crazy Italy is trying to win an unprecedented fourth World Cup, arguably the most prestigious prize in all of international sports.

An informal Associated Press survey found that most of the teams competing in the world cup haven't announced a specific policy on sexual relations. Several coaches have said that what the players do in their free time is their own business.

"The wives and girlfriends are here, but the physical side of it is not something that we've discussed," said an aide to England Manager Bobby Robson.

At least two other teams — Spain and Uruguay — have prohibited the players' wives or girlfriends from being with them during the World Cup.

A fourth team, Argentina, has asked its players to refrain from having sexual relations for at least four days before each game. "Of course, some players who are with their wives may evade this

rule, as long as I don't catch them," says coach Carlos Bilardo.

In announcing his ban on sex in early May, the Italian Coach, Vicini, said, "chastity of players prior and during a major competition has been a long-debated, but unsolved problem."

During the world Cup, however, Vicini said the players would be too busy training, concentrating on strategy and studying their opponents to spend time with their wives or girlfriends.

Since Vicini's announcement, the issue of sex in soccer — whether or not to have "relations" before and during the World Cup — has become almost as hotly debated as on-the-field techniques.

The Brazilian team reacted with horror to Vicini's proposal, an Italian men's magazine wrote an in-depth story about it and Italian sportswriters regularly ask about it during news conferences.

The sex ban also surprised Italian fans and some said it could hurt the team's performance.

"If you make love, I think it's good because it relieves stress and makes you feel better," said Piero Incono, 54, a bus driver in Rome who is married and has a daughter. "People who don't make love don't feel good. It's a psychological thing."

The Uruguayan players already have been training for 45 days, without seeing their wives or girlfriends, and the tournament lasts until July 8 — if the team makes it to the finals.

"The World Cup is only played every four years. We can have sex the rest of our lives," Uruguayan Forward Sergio Martinez said.

"When you like football as much as I do, abstaining from sex is not a problem. You can over-

come that," said a grinning Ruben Sosa, Uruguay's top offensive weapon. "But, by the way, what is sex?"

After Vicini announced his ban, the Italian men's magazine, *Gente Mese*, interviewed players and their wives. Most said they didn't mind the ban, but team Captain Giuseppe Bergomi confided that he wasn't certain it would improve the team's play.

"You're asking me for a confession? After a night of love, I feel much stronger on the field," Bergomi told the monthly magazine.

Professor Giovanni Caletti, identified by the magazine as an expert on sexuality, also told *Gente Mese* that the ban would disrupt the players' normal routine.

"When I think of the players at their training camp without their wives," he said, "the idea of beasts in cages comes to mind."

U.S. soccer Coach Bob Gansler, whose team doesn't have a policy on sex, quickly found out how much interest there is in the issue when he met with Italian sportswriters in Tirrenia.

"They didn't care about Gansler's strategies for winning, they wanted to know what he thought about sex."

"Sex is important for Americans, too. That's why there are 250 million of us," Gansler said. "There have been many studies in this field and as far as I know everything I've seen has been inconclusive."

One reporter wasn't satisfied. "But at the level of theory, spiritually, do you feel closer to those who think sex is good or are you closer to the other point of view?"

"Spiritually," Gansler said, "I feel closer to my wife."

Painter's wife pays price for French-Chinese strain

By Claire Rosenberg
Reuter

PARIS — Strained relations between China and France — which has extended a warm welcome to dissident Chinese exiles in the past year — have caused nothing but heartache to one Frenchwoman.

She is the wife of a Chinese painter who diplomats say could face up to 15 years in jail.

"It's all because of our marriage, because he has a French wife," Agnes Gaudu, a journalist and writer, said in interview.

Seven days after their marriage, she said, her husband Wang Du was arrested at Canton University while applying for a passport.

She said he was eventually charged with counter-revolutionary incitement and propaganda, one of the heaviest charges opponents of the government can face. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to up to 15 years in jail or hard labour.

According to diplomatic sources, it was because of this that a high-level visit to Beijing aimed at improving the strained ties between China and France was cancelled in April.

Relations between the two countries have plummeted since June last year, when some of China's most wanted dissidents streamed to France and were given safe-haven.

Government envoy Jean De Lipkowski was to have gone to China in April with the specific mission of finding ways of putting relations on a normal footing again, but he called off the trip.

Gaudu, a Chinese-speaker now aged 31, met Wang Xuezi — better known under his artist's name, Wang Du — in Canton in the autumn of 1988 while collecting material for a book on life in China which was published in France last year.

"It was very much a case of love at first sight," she said. Then 32, Wang Du was the son of a miner and his illiterate wife from Central China.

Sent to work in the countryside at the age of 16 under the cultural revolution, the self-taught artist and sculptor then worked for eight years in a stone quarry before passing exams that allowed him to enrol and graduate from a Canton art school.

Gaudu said that like much of China's youth, Wang Du had joined the protesters last year when students and workers took to the streets in the pro-democracy protests which shook China until the bloody military crackdown last June.

But at no time was he a dissident leader, she added.

In the summer of 1989, he filled out the obligatory report the Chinese had to write on their activities during the "Peking spring" but thought that was

where the matter would end, she said.

His work unit, Canton's Polytechnic University, granted him permission to marry Gaudu and supplied the necessary papers.

But on Sept. 27, he was arrested, she said.

Gaudu said that after weeks spent harassing officers and staff in Canton police stations to find out why he was being held and where, she was told Wang Du was under investigation, suspected of "taking part in the turmoil."

The charges brought against him, however, were far more serious.

"It was the stiffest possible charge they could have laid," Gaudu said. "Prominent dissidents in comparison have faced lesser charges or have even been released. Wang Du is being considered as a special case."

Gaudu had notified the French authorities immediately of his detention. After seven months they announced she had been granted the right to a visit.

Wang Du was depressed and in poor health, she said, his face blotched and bloated from kidney trouble for which he had been given no medical treatment.

It was during that visit, a 20-minute encounter on April 23 under tight police surveillance, that Gaudu was informed Wang Du had been officially charged.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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E. Europe to dominate central bankers meeting

ZURICH (R) — Economic and political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the possible risks for the West are likely to dominate discussion when central bankers from around the world gather in Switzerland this weekend.

But bankers and economists say participants at Monday's annual meeting of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) in Basle will also review the world's inflation and interest rates.

"Generally the view is that there has to be continuing efforts to curb global inflation," said Robert Hormatz, vice-chairman of U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs and Company and a former U.S. State Department official.

Although it is not a policy-making forum, the meeting presents a useful opportunity to review issues in the light of last week's Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ministerial meeting in Paris and ahead of the July 9 to 11 summit of Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations in Houston, Texas.

It also takes place three weeks before East and West Germany merge their economies in a step

which some economists fear could be inflationary.

"German monetary union will be top of the agenda at Basle," said one senior European central bank economist.

The head of West Germany's Bundesbank, Karl Otto Poehl, has said the German linkup will not entail higher inflation.

But fears that the conversion of near-worthless East German savings into West German marks will unleash an inflationary consumer spending spree have helped depress the mark this year.

Another major concern will probably be the Soviet Union. Its economy is in trouble and it has arrears of more than \$2 billion on payments to Western suppliers.

The Soviet Union does not belong to the BIS, but the state bank Gosbank is invited to the annual meeting each year, and economists say its representative this time is bound to be questioned closely by Western bankers.

The fear is that if the Soviet economy plunges into chaos, this would threaten reform throughout Eastern Europe, disrupt world trade as payments delays mount, and cause turmoil in foreign exchanges, economists be-

lieve. "According to our information, the (Soviet) economy is really falling apart," said Peter Buomberger, chief economist at Union Bank of Switzerland. "This could have a dramatic impact on the world economy."

Western central bankers will take the opportunity to quiz their counterparts from Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia, all BIS members, about developments in their countries, economists say.

Most talks at the BIS, the central bank to central banks, takes place informally at cocktail parties and dinners on Sunday and Monday. The annual meeting itself Monday will be a 45-minute affair to approve the BIS accounts and hear a speech by its President Wim Duisenberg, governor of the Dutch central bank.

The BIS will publish its annual report, which is expected to say the fight against inflation is not over and stress the need for central banks to keep close control of monetary growth.

Economists say interest rate prospects in the leading industrial nations will also be a major talking point.

Oman market booms but shares still scarce

DUBAI (R) — Oman's securities market exceeded all turnover targets in its first year but still has a long way to go to attract shareholders willing to sell their stocks, financial analysts say.

Shares valued at 16.27 million Omani riyals (\$42.3 million) have been traded since the exchange opened May 20 last year until the end of May 1990, said Hashem Ali Sabagh, an adviser who set up the Muscat securities market.

The turnover target for the first year was set at six million riyals (\$15.6 million). "This can be described as a boom and interest in the market is growing day by day," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from Muscat.

But bankers and financial analysts in Oman said market activity was thin because of the reluctance of most controlling owners in major companies to put their shares up for sale.

The exchange was set up to attract local savings into the economy and lure back funds invested abroad. Bankers say there is a growing demand even from small investors to buy stocks but that supply is limited.

Some companies are so profitable that, apart from fears of losing control of their firms, current share-owners prefer to keep their holding rather than trade them.

Sabagh said the price earnings ratio of some firms — market price of stock as a multiple of per share earnings — are as high as six to one.

"The (big) shareowners have some price ideas in their minds and they want to realise these," a leading stock broker said.

Seventy-four Omani companies are listed at the exchange with a total capitalisation of around 600 million riyals (\$1.56 billion), said Sabagh.

He said the exchange would not start an index before trading in major stocks became regular each day.

"When we have 15 companies traded regularly every day we can issue an index," said Sabagh. "Now we have three or four."

However one of the six brokerage houses allowed to deal on the floor of the exchange has been testing an index and plans to announce it on a regular basis soon, financial sources said.

The most actively traded stocks are in banks, insurance companies and some agro-industries, brokers said.

Although the number of small transactions is growing, the market sometimes witnesses on single big stock movement involving several hundred thousand shares, one broker said.

But shares of some companies listed at the exchange have never been traded, one analyst pointed out.

"This is not a healthy situation, the aim of the market is to have shares of all companies purchased and sold by a large number of people," he added.

But brokers and exchange officials are confident about the future as daily trading volume is said to be growing. To stimulate trading interest, the market has been holding evening sessions twice a week since last October.

Sabagh said daily trading involved shares valued at 15,000 to 20,000 Omani riyals (\$39,000 to \$52,000) last year when the exchange opened. It now sometimes saw shares change hands in one day of over 100,000 riyals (\$260,000).

COCOM eases restrictions on high technology exports

PARIS (AP) — Officials from 17 Western nations agreed Thursday to lift export restrictions on a multitude of high technology products and opened the way for preferential treatment for East European nations previously denied access to Western technology.

The Coordination Committee for Multilateral Export Controls — known as COCOM — agreed to delete 30 of 116 items on its restricted list effective July 1, U.S. officials said, making them available to all nations, including the Soviet Union.

It will seek to eliminate eight more items by mid-August and reduce restricted items to a "core list" of highly strategic items by the end of the year.

Delegates at the two-day meeting also agreed that East European countries which adopt "appropriate safeguards" could become eligible for preferential treatment.

"We believe these countries are future candidates for deletion from the COCOM list of proscribed destinations," a U.S. statement said.

Allan Wendt, senior State Department representative for

strategic technology policy, said that Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia would likely be the first to benefit from a preferred status with the group.

East Germany, pending full political unification with West Germany, will benefit from a "greatly reduced list" of export controls and improved licensing protections, officials said.

West Germany's economics ministry said the COCOM decisions amounted to freeing "all essential technologies for East Germany."

"We fully recognise it's a changing world, and the changes are occurring rapidly," said Wendt, who headed the U.S. delegation. "I think we've turned COCOM on its head."

The moves effectively modernise COCOM, which sets and oversees export restrictions on Western technology with possible military application. Then also give a boost to the effort by East European nations to modernise their economies.

The decisions "basically allow Eastern Europe to engage in modernisation across the board," said Dennis Klosek, under-secretary of commerce for export administration, a member of the

U.S. delegation.

Machine tools, telecommunications and computer equipment — which account for the bulk of COCOM cases — are the "bricks and mortars" of modern economic society, Klosek said.

The changes "will be a boon to export companies within COCOM," he added. Members of the U.S. delegation estimated that in reducing COCOM's list of controlled items about \$45 billion of U.S. exports alone were eliminated from the licensing process.

Among the safeguards required for nations like Poland, Hungary or Czechoslovakia are guarantees the technology will be limited to civilian use and that there will be no intelligence cooperation with the Soviet Union aimed at diverting the technology in question, Wendt said.

U.S. President George Bush called May 2 for modernisation of COCOM following the dramatic moves toward democratisation in Eastern Europe.

All COCOM members — the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance, minus Iceland, plus Australia and Japan — were pressing for decontrols.

Turkish business support for the government fading

By Servet Yildirim

ANKARA — Turkey's business leaders are beginning to lose confidence in the economic policies of the right-wing Motherland Party, which they helped to power in 1983.

"We don't have time to wait (the renewal of) confidence in the government's economic policies. We have to channel present resources to new investments, otherwise they may be too late," Cem Boyner, head of the Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen (TUSIAD), told members in late May.

When it came to office seven years ago the Motherland gov-

ernment embarked on a new economic model to replace what was an inward-looking economy. It was led then by Turgut Ozal, who last November became president and was succeeded as head of government by Yildirim Akbulut.

Its free-market policies have helped to improve Turkey's creditworthiness, which was hurt by foreign debt reschedulings of the 1970s, and to boost exports and eliminate exchange controls.

Key measures included positive policies on interest and exchange rates, easier import controls and stimulation of exports and foreign investments. But at the same time year-on-

year inflation almost doubled to 36.5 per cent.

Declining support for the Motherland, as low as 10 per cent according to some newspaper polls, has fuelled harsh criticism from opposition parties and business leaders disturbed at its failure to stem inflation and stimulate industrial growth.

"We can't see a stable economic atmosphere for the future. The government programmes are lacking coordination," Memduh Macioglul, chairman of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry, said.

The Motherland Party won a second five-year term in a general election in 1987 with 290 of parliament's 450 seats.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, June 7, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	117.6 118.3
U.S. dollar	669.0 673.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	438.8 441.4
Pound Sterling	1129.5 1136.3	Dutch guilder	352.2 354.3
Deutschemark	396.4 398.6	Swedish crown	109.6 110.3
Swiss franc	465.4 468.2	Italian lira (for 100)	54.0 54.3
		Belgian franc (for 10)	192.8 194.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6870/80	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1755/65	Canadian dollar	
	1.6935/40	Deutschemarks	
	1.9040/50	Dutch guilders	
	1.4440/50	Swiss francs	
	34.79/84	French francs	
	5.7070/7100	Italian lire	
	1244/1245	Japanese yen	
	153.20/30	Swedish crowns	
	6.1165/1215	Norwegian crowns	
	6.5005/55	Danish crowns	
	6.4510/60	U.S. dollars	
One ounce of gold	353.65/354.15		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Volume tapered off after early volatility on settlement buying following Thursday's expiry of the June index futures. The Nikkei average lost 199.21 to close at 32,993.29.

SYDNEY — The market ended weaker but off its lows after arbitrageurs took advantage of discounted leading stocks in the afternoon. The All Ordinaries Index fell 5.1 points to 1504.1.

HONG KONG — Renewed buying by overseas institutions boosted the Hang Seng Index 29.03 to 3,174.33.

SINGAPORE — Prices rose over a broad front on renewed buying interest and some short-covering. The Straits Times Industrials gained 14.97 points to close at 1,568.07.

BOMBAY — Market closed.

FRANKFURT — The Dax index closed at 1,822.23, down 15.2 points. "There's no real activity at all," a trader commented. "Any transactions we do are at mini-volume."

ZURICH — The All-Share SPI index added 0.9 point to 1,181.3, getting some help from a lower-than-expected Zurich inflation figure for May.

PARIS — Lower prices for bonds and financial futures and a decline on Wall Street sent the CAC-40 down 29.04 points to 2,021. "This market will slide on anything," a dealer said.

LONDON — Shares lost ground in quiet trade. The FTSE index closed at 2,366.6, down 11.8 points.

NEW YORK — The market is consolidating, but analysts say an up-trend could resume when selling lets up. At 1633 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were 10.44 lower at 2,886.89.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Istanbul exchange merges markets

ISTANBUL (R) — Primary and secondary markets of the booming Istanbul stock exchange will be merged and trading hours will be extended by 30 minutes beginning on Monday, exchange officials said Friday. Officials said the executive board decided to merge the markets mainly because of a significant rise in trading volume in second market shares. The primary market handled trading in 50 high-volume stocks and the secondary market dealt with 37 issues. The market index, which had been based only on the primary shares, will now include trading in all 87 stocks. Trading hours will be extended by one half hour, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (0700 to 0930 GMT). The secondary market was initially set up to handle trading in low-volume and newly floated issues. Promotion to the primary market was based on trading volume, with the approval of exchange administrators. Shares worth \$2.7 billion lira changed hands on the secondary market in May, compared to 420 million lira in the same month in 1989. Volume on the primary market rose to 442.1 billion lira last month compared to 36.3 billion in May 1989.

Yemen to get fisheries loan

SANA (R) — Yemen's Fisheries Minister Salem Mohammad Jabran left Friday for the United States, where he would sign an agreement for a \$12 million loan from the International Development Association (IDA). Sanaa Radio said. It said the loan from the IDA, which assists poorer developing countries, would help finance a project to provide better services for fishermen and improve marketing of fish in the newly created Yemeni republic. It quoted Jabran as saying the rest of the project's expenses, equivalent to \$38 million, would be covered by the Yemeni government, the Arab Monetary Fund and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Third World food production up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Third World countries have increased food production remarkably since 1965, except for Africa where the population has increased faster, according to a report issued Thursday. The report entitled "World Resources" 1990-91 was published by the World Resources Institute, a private group, with the U.N. Development Programme and U.N. Environment Programme. Between 1980 and 1987, output increased in 29 countries, including Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nigeria, according to another study. But it found slower growth in 46 other countries, notably Brazil and Pakistan. The study was conducted by

the International Food Policy Research Institute, which is financed by governments, international organisations and foundations. It said food production trends were maintained in 16 countries, including Argentina, India, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey. In 13 countries, mostly in Western Asia and southern Africa, there was a continuation of a decline recorded between 1961 and 1980. It considered China separately, and said growth of food output there continued to speed ahead. Eastern and Southeastern Asia were the areas showing the most improvement.

Iacocca says he will stay on

DETROIT (R) — Chrysler Corporation Chairman Lee Iacocca said Thursday he will remain in his post as head of the third largest American car company after his current contract expires in December 1991. The company last week lost its second in command and heir apparent to Iacocca when Vice Chairman Gerald Greenwald left to head an employee group bidding for UAL Corporation, the parent of United Airlines. "When I came to Chrysler, I enlisted for the duration," Iacocca said in a statement. "Right now there's a battle raging and I'm not going to leave my troops in the field." Iacocca, now 65, engineered Chrysler's return from near bankruptcy in the early 1980s and has been the top executive at the company ever since. Greenwald, 54, was also a key player in Chrysler's successful bailout, and was deeply involved in arrangements for the government loan package that kept it in business. But he also laboured in Iacocca's shadow and some analysts said he left because he could no longer wait to move into the spotlight.

Turkey strike days increase

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey lost twice as many work days through strikes in the first four months of this year as in the same period last year, labour ministry figures showed. The number of work days lost to the end of April in 1990 totalled 694,097 with the number of workers joining strikes going up to 31,281 from 16,670. Inflation has changed little in the 12 months to end-May, reaching 63.6 per cent after 63.5 per cent to end-April and compared to 62.8 per cent a year ago. Workers also staged unorthodox protests such as walking barefoot to work, paying mass visits to doctors for check-ups, refusing to do overtime and refusing to eat factory lunches. Major strikes included those by private and public sector cement workers. Some 10,000 private cement workers ended a one-month strike in April, accepting a pay rise of 100 per cent for this year and 60 per cent for the next year.



Helmut Kohl

German monetary union does not portend inflation

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Thursday he did not fear the imminent one-on-one exchange of East for West German marks would portend inflation in his country.

Asked at a news conference after delivering the keynote Harvard University graduation address how many East German marks Bonn could afford to buy before inflation would set in, Kohl said that decision was the exclusive domain of West Germany's central bank.

"I have complete confidence in the Bundesbank," the West German leader said. "I've not fought against inflation for eight years to put in inflationary policies now."

The exchange is set to begin on July 1.

German unity, Kohl said, would add to the impetus for European integration and he advised U.S. businessmen to begin now to plan for the European market after 1992.

"1990 will be the decade of Europe, not of Japan," he said, repeating a prediction he made to American businessmen Tuesday in New York.

Kohl said he could not predict a date for free elections to choose leaders in common for the unified Germany. "I'm not yet in a position to name a specific date," he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 9, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you need to take a chance today do it in the early morning for you will find that others are too wrapped-up in their own affairs to really get a fix on exactly what you are up to.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You need to proceed cautiously in going after some goal that requires output of much time and effort but tonight the way to do so clear up very much.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep plugging away at outside vocational interests without making any stormy waves, and then in evening you can put on town for a fine time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You would be sensible to investigate all phases of a different course than you have been pursuing today, while tonight a clear picture emerges.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study carefully whatever promises you have made so you can carry them out just as agreed and in evening you have a fine plan to do so.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A worldly matter comes to light you are unsure just how to handle so take under advisement today said: tonight the situation clears up for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to get your surroundings in better shape but time or energy is lacking during daytime but tonight you are able to do so with ease.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be understanding of your attachment and some viewpoint they express with which you have little sympathy. In the evening join companions at amusements.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a point to let your family know you are interested in their standpoint and in what they say, think while tonight invite guests into your home.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well what you say or do today since you might alienate a staunch supporter and in the evening call upon good friends who understand you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your usual financial acumen is not up to par today so make no decisions where money or property are concerned; discuss money with expert tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are under strong pressure from within to make some sweeping changes early in the day and avoid doing so; don't make decisions till tonight.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do those quiet activities de-

spite fact you want to be more in the public eye during the day but then tonight have a happy time with your mate.

SPRING: (March 21 to April 19) Be understanding of your attachment and some viewpoint they express with which you have little sympathy. In the evening join companions at amusements.

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Programme for the World Cup soccer

(All kickoff times GMT):

First round

Group A (venues: Rome and Florence)

June 9	Italy V Austria (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
June 10	United States V Czechoslovakia (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)
June 14	Italy V United States (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
June 15	Austria V Czechoslovakia (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)
June 19	Italy V Czechoslovakia (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
June 19	Austria V United States (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1900)

Group B (Milan, Naples, Bari)

June 9	Soviet Union V Romania (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1500)
June 13	Argentina V Soviet Union (San Paolo stadium, Naples 1900)
June 14	Cameroun V Romania (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1900)
June 18	Argentina V Romania (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1900)
June 18	Cameroun V Soviet Union (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1900)

Group C (Turin, Genoa)

June 10	Brazil V Sweden (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1900)
June 11	Costa Rica V Scotland (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1500)
June 16	Brazil V Costa Rica (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1500)
June 16	Sweden V Scotland (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1900)
June 20	Brazil V Scotland (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1900)
June 20	Sweden V Costa Rica (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1900)

Group D (Milan, Bologna)

June 9	United Arab Emirates V Colombia (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1900)
June 10	West Germany V Yugoslavia (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1900)
June 14	Yugoslavia V Colombia (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1500)
June 15	West Germany V United Arab Emirates (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1900)
June 19	West Germany V Colombia (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1500)
June 19	Yugoslavia V United Arab Emirates (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1500)

Group E (Verona, Udine)

June 12	Belgium V South Korea (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1500)
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June 13	Uruguay V Spain (Friuli stadium, Udine — 1500)
June 17	Belgium V Uruguay (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1900)
June 17	South Korea V Spain (Friuli stadium, Udine — 1900)
June 21	Belgium V Spain (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1500)
June 21	South Korea V Uruguay (Friuli stadium, Udine — 1500)

Group F (Cagliari, Palermo)

June 11	England V Ireland (Sant'elia stadium, Cagliari — 1900)
June 12	Netherlands V Egypt (La Favorita stadium, Palermo — 1900)
June 16	England V Netherlands (Sant'elia stadium, Cagliari — 1900)
June 17	Ireland V Egypt (La Favorita stadium, Palermo — 1500)
June 21	England V Egypt (Sant'elia stadium, Cagliari — 1900)
June 21	Ireland V Netherlands (La Favorita stadium, Palermo — 1900)

Second Round

June 23	Winner group B V 3rd team group A/C/D (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1500)
June 23	Runner-up group A V runner-up group C (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1900)
June 24	Winner group C V 3rd group B/E/F (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1500)
June 24	Winner group D V 3rd group B/E/F (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1900)
June 25	Runner-up group F V runner-up group B (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1500)
June 25	Winner group A V 3rd group C/D/E (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
June 26	Winner group E V runner-up group D (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1500)
June 26	Winner group F V runner-up group E (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1900)

Quarter-finals

June 30	Winner (Turin) V winner (Verona) (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)
June 30	Winner (Genoa) V winner (Rome) (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
July 1	Winner (Bari) V winner (Milan) (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1500)
July 1	Winner (Naples) V winner (Bologna) (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1900)

Semifinals

July 3	Winner (Florence) V winner (Rome) (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1800)
July 4	Winner (Milan) V winner (Naples) (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1800)

Third-place match

July 7	Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1800
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Final

July 8	Olympic stadium, Rome — 1800
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After a dazzling World Cup opening ceremony

Cameroun shocks world champ

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A dazzling show of Italian fashions, song and dance preceded Friday's kickoff of the World Cup before a sellout crowd at Meazza stadium and a worldwide television audience.

The 25-minute extravaganza inside the towering high-tech stadium with a lattice-work roof featured 160 models wearing the creation of four noted Italian designers, three singers, 24 giant soccer balls and one giant helium balloon that looked like a soccer ball.

Four heads of state, attending the opener between defending champion Argentina and Cameroun, watched the ceremony from the stands.

To the sound of the World Cup anthem "Un Estate Italiana" (an Italian summer) sung by popular recording artists Edoardo Bennato and Gianna Nannini, 200 gymnasts came on to the pitch bearing the flags of the 24 finalists.

After the anthem, models wearing creations designed by Mila Schon, Valentino, Gianfranco

co Ferre and Ottavio Missoni paraded around the field. Each designer picked a colour and one of the four continents represented at the World Cup for the theme of his designs.

Schon picked yellow to represent Asia, Missoni chose black for Africa, Valentino represented America in red and Ferre used green for Europe.

Verdi's trumpet march from "Aida" was played during the final stages of the ceremony over a television hookup from Milan's La Scala theater. The theater's orchestra was conducted by Riccardo Muti.

At the end, the giant soccer-ball balloon floated up from the field through the opening in the stadium roof while the 24 giant soccer balls on the field opened into daisies, releasing hundreds of coloured balloons.

The heads of state at the game were Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Cameroun President Paul Biya and Brazilian President Fernando Collor De

Mello.

Cameroun, reduced to nine men late in the match, shocked Argentina and an uninspiring Diego Maradona by beating the holders 1-0 in the opening match of the World Cup finals Friday.

French-based striker Francois Omam-Biyik scored the only goal of the African side's historic win with a header from free kick in the 66th minute.

Cameroun were by then down to 10 men after midfielder Andre Kana-Biyik was sent off for a foul on substitute striker Claudio Caniggia.

Benjamin Masing, booked in the first half, was later shown the red card for a blatant body check on Caniggia.

Cameroun also had Akem n'dip and Emile m'Bouh m'Bouh booked while Roberto Sensi was the only Argentine shown the yellow card.

The Argentine, a pale shadow of the side that won the World Cup in Mexico four years ago, were found wanting for speed by a side playing simple counter-attacking soccer.

Cameroun, with striker Benjamin Masing brilliant in fast breaks down the middle, wrought havoc in the Argentine defense while Maradona and Jorge Burruchaga failed to inspire up front.

Cameroun drew their three matches in the 1982 World Cup

finals in Spain, where Argentina also crashed to a defeat by the same score to Belgium when defending their first title.

French referee Michel Vautrot, following FIFA directives, was strict with Cameroun's often rough marking of Maradona and later Caniggia.

But the Argentines, who pride themselves on their close skills, will rue some lost chances through uncharacteristic errors in attacking positions.

The gangling Abel Balbo, whom coach Carlos Bilardo preferred to Caniggia as Maradona's attacking partner, twice tripped over the ball as he was picking up passes in scoring positions.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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THIRD-HAND LOW!

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 10 9
 ♥ 7
 ♦ K Q 8 3
 ♣ A Q 6 5 2

WEST
 ♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ Q J 6 5
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ 10 9 8 4

EAST
 ♠ J 8 3 2
 ♥ A 9 8 2
 ♦ 10 6 5
 ♣ 7 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7 6
 ♥ K 10 4 3
 ♦ A J 9 2
 ♣ K J

West led a club, and declarer quickly ran nine tricks in the minor suits. Both defenders had discarding problems which they solved perfectly. West discarded the 5 6 Q of hearts and East 2 8 of hearts and 2 3 of spades. This was the position:

NORTH
 ♠ A 10 9
 ♥ 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

WEST
 ♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ J
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

EAST
 ♠ J 8
 ♥ A 9
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6NT	Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠.
The advantage of playing in a suit contract over no trump is you can significantly increase the number of tricks you have by ruffing. On this hand, trumping one loser was all that would have been needed for six diamonds to succeed.
Unfortunately, when this hand was played in a rubber bridge game the bidding got out of hand. South's initial response is a strange action, as was North's three no trump, and South's four no trump was not intended as Blackwood, although it was taken as such. South misjudged in electing to play no trump rather than six diamonds.
Declarer led a heart from the table and misguessed by inserting the ten, losing to East's jack. Back came a low spade and when dummy's nine was played East followed low. Declarer had a choice of ways to go down after the nine held. Cashing the ace of spades would leave dummy with a spade loser; if declarer came to hand with the king of spades, the king of hearts would have to be conceded.
Note that if East covers the nine of spades, the contract makes. Declarer takes the king and plays for split honors by finessing the ten.

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Liberian troops reportedly retake key area from rebels

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — The Liberian government said Friday that its troops had recaptured key territory — the headquarters of the huge rubber plantation from which the international airport can be controlled.

Witnesses said fighting raged Friday at the U.S.-managed plantation.

President Samuel Doe's government, in a radio statement, said its 1st Infantry Battalion had crushed rebels holding the headquarters complex at the Firestone rubber plantation 56 kilometres southeast of Monrovia.

The troops also were in control of Robertsfield International Airport, which is on the plantation, the government said. Rebel sources said their forces had withdrawn from the complex after government troops, backed by heavy artillery, approached.

When the plantation was in their hands, insurgents controlled every major industrial concern in the West African country of 2.5 million people, except possibly the Bong Iron Ore Mine.

The mine has been cut off for days from Monrovia and was believed behind rebel lines.

The rebel presence at the rubber plantation headquarters had effectively closed the airport.

The 120,000-acre plantation,

the world's largest, is the country's biggest employer with 8,500 Liberian workers. It produces about 45 million kilograms of rubber a year.

Also Friday, religious leaders called for a ceasefire in the five-month-old war before "it degenerates into a tribal conflict."

The appeal from the Liberian Council of Churches and National Muslim Council of Liberia was broadcast Friday morning.

The church group called on Doe's army and rebels led by former bureaucrat Charles Taylor to agree to an immediate ceasefire, supervised by an international peacekeeping force.

Both sides also were asked to guarantee the safety of everyone under their control.

The council also called for a national conference to discuss the conflict and restoration of democracy.

The church leaders said the army should make special arrangements to avoid attacks on Gio and Mano people, whose tribes are associated with the

rebels. Rebels intent were called on to guarantee the safety of Krahn, Doe's tribe, and Mandingos. Dozens of these two tribes have been killed by rebels in apparent retaliation for the killings of Gio and Mano.

Most of Doe's army had been confined to its barracks in recent days after allegations they had brutally murdered hundreds of Gio and Mano people.

In Abidjan, capital of neighbouring Ivory Coast, U.S. embassy spokesman Robert Petersen said three charter flights carrying Americans and other expatriates would be flown from a small airport in Monrovia to Abidjan Sunday.

Petersen said the evacuees would then board a chartered flight to the United States.

The United States has four warships, carrying 2,100 Marines, anchored off the coast of Liberia. The Marines would be sent in if hostilities reach the capital and endanger Americans. The United States also has agreed to evacuate other expatriates, including Soviets.

British ships also were off the coast. West Germany was preparing to evacuate about 100 German citizens and 100 other West Europeans, the Foreign Ministry in Bonn said Thursday.

Many foreigners in Liberia say they plan to stay. It was not clear how many of the estimated 2,000 of fewer Americans still in Liberia would leave.

U.S.-Liberian ties are historically close. Former slaves from the United States settled Liberia in the 1800s.

In November 1985, Brig.-Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa, largely backed by Gio and Mano, tried to overthrow Doe. He managed to take over much of Monrovia before he was killed.

Hundreds of Gio and Mano were killed in revenge, according to international human rights organisations.

Taylor's rebels launched their invasion five months ago from eastern Nimba County, the homeland of Gio and Mano. They have been within striking distance of Monrovia since reaching the gates of Robertsfield International Airport Tuesday.

Doe was dug in at his oceanfront executive mansion in Monrovia and was quoted as telling a U.S. diplomat Thursday that the rebels would take this capital city of 400,000 people "over my dead body."

A Nigerian government official said in Lagos, the Nigerian capital, that Doe would be welcome in that country.

E. Germany denies plans for early joint German elections

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany denied Thursday that it had agreed with Bonn to hold joint German elections by Jan. 13.

"No time frame for joint German elections has been agreed," East German Prime Minister Hans-Joachim Lauth said.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, as told a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Scotland that Bonn and East Berlin had agreed on the early deadline.

The NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters that West Germany would scrap federal elections scheduled for Dec. 2 in favour of a pan-German poll by Jan. 13, the last day of the Bonn govern-

ment's mandate.

The two Germanys plan to merge their economies from July 1, the first and most important step towards full political union.

Bonn had previously suggested it want all-German elections by early 1991.

East German Prime Minister Lauth said he was so far refused to commit himself.

The NATO official said De Maiziere, in Moscow for a summit of the Warsaw Pact, would inform Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of the plan Thursday or Friday.

Merkel denied such a plan existed.

Meanwhile East Germany's freely-elected parliament, born of popular protest, was on the receiving end of dissent Thursday

when students demanding higher allowances broke in briefly and unfurled banners.

The students want their monthly grants raised from 200 marks (\$117) to 500 marks (\$294) per month when East Germany abandons its separate economic identity at the end of the month and converts to the West German mark.

"Things are going to get a lot more expensive and if we don't get the increase we'll be below the poverty line," said one student in a noisy crowd of several thousand demonstrators in front of the Volkskammer (parliament).

Debate was suspended briefly while stewards removed a group of students who were raining down leaflets on deputies from the visitors' gallery.

Czechs vote in first free elections

PRAGUE (AP) — Miners in the former Communist bastion of Ostrava were the first to vote Friday in Czechoslovakia's first free elections in 44 years.

Journalists with the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) in Ostrava, a mining and industrial centre near the Polish border, said voting got under way two hours early in some city districts because of the shifts worked by coal miners.

The residents of Ostrava, known for four decades as a bastion of Orthodox Communism because of its heavily industrial workforce and Stalinist local leaders, thus became the first Czechoslovaks to have a free choice at the ballot box since 1946.

Casting a free ballot will be a first-time experience for the vast majority of the 11.2 million people aged 18 and over entitled to vote when most polls open Friday at 2 p.m. (noon GMT). Balloting resumes Saturday, closing at 2 p.m. (noon GMT).

Authorities took the business of a free election seriously, imposing a ban on the sale of all alcohol except beer for the two days of voting and sending police to guard public places ranging from polling stations to post office.

The voters will choose 300 deputies to a new federal parliament charged with choosing a new president and then getting to work on revising Czechoslovakia's constitution to remove the last vestiges of 41 years of one-party Communist rule.

The elections will also decide the composition of Czech and Slovak republican parliaments, which have responsibility for key areas of public life such as education and health care.

After what President Vaclav Havel called the "velvet revolution" overturned Communist rule last winter, campaigning for the elections grew increasingly bitter, building to last-minute controversy over the Communist past.

The fiercest row erupted Thursday between Havel's Civic Forum movement — which with its Slovak ally Public Against Violence is favoured to emerge strongest from the voting — and the Christian Democrat Alliance of three parties.

Deputy Interior Minister Jan Ruml, charged with investigating the files of the now disbanded Communist secret police, sparked the row by publicly denouncing a leading Christian Democrat, Josef Bartonek, on national television Wednesday night.

Bartonek repeatedly had been accused of being an agent of the Communist secret police, a charge he denied.

But Ruml said he had unspecified information making Bartonek unfit to serve in parliament, calling him a "man without character" and accusing him of breaking his word to quit politics after being confronted with the damaging information Tuesday.

Thatcher, Gorbachev discuss future of Europe

MOSCOW (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed the future of Europe with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Friday, assuring him that a united Germany's membership of NATO would not be a threat.

The two leaders met in the Kremlin for two-and-a-half hours on the first full day of Thatcher's four-day visit.

British officials said 80 per cent of the morning's talks, which would continue over lunch and dinner, revolved around the future of Europe.

"Within that, of course, was the issue of German unification and NATO," a senior British official said.

He added that Thatcher "rehearsed the substantial points" she had made in a speech to NATO foreign ministers in Scotland on her way to Moscow Thursday, notably that post-unification German membership of the 16-nation Western alliance was fundamental NATO policy.

The official said Thatcher sought to ease Gorbachev's concerns on the subject by stressing that no NATO forces would be stationed in what is now East Germany and said Soviet forces would remain there for a transitional period.

Gorbachev has consistently rejected the idea of a united Germany in NATO, saying the Soviet public would take it as a reversal of everything they had fought for in World War II, during which up to 27 million Soviet citizens died.

Thatcher, an ardent and outspoken Gorbachev supporter, also elaborated on her all for NATO to take on a greater political role and seek to build peace rather than simply aim to prevent war.

The British official said the talks, the seventh meeting in as many years between the two leaders, were open and friendly and described the atmosphere as extremely good.

Gorbachev was host at a Warsaw Pact summit Thursday at which the seven-nation alliance formally abandoned its role as guardian of Kremlin power in Eastern Europe and committed itself to radical democratic change.

The two leaders briefly discussed the breakaway efforts of the Soviet Baltic republics, arms control, conventional force (CFE) reduction talks in Vienna and plans for a new European Conference on Security and Cooperation.

Kirghizia death toll rises to 78

MOSCOW (R) — At least 78 people have died in ethnic clashes which have swept the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kirghizia over the past five days, the Soviet News Agency TASS said Friday.

The situation in the region surrounding the town of Osh, where the conflict between Kirghiz and Uzbeks was sparked Monday, was still "complicated," TASS added.

The death toll as a result of fighting between Kirghiz and Uzbeks has reached 78, with 330 injured... 249 houses have been burnt down," it said.

But the agency quoted Felix Kulov, military commander of the capital, Frunze, as saying the city had been relatively calm since authorities imposed a state of emergency Thursday.

The restrictions were introduced after a large crowd, demanding the resignation of the republic's leadership, tried to storm the Communist Party headquarters. TASS accused the protesters of trying to seize power.

A journalist at the official Kirghiz News Agency Kirtak said a mob had addressed a large crowd in the capital and called on them to end the violence.

"He called on the population of Frunze and elsewhere to stop fighting and commemorate the dead," the journalist said.

Despite a few isolated incidents in Frunze overnight the city was calm, the journalist added.

In Osh itself, where the violence started Monday after an argument over land allocation, a town council official said Interior Ministry troops and police were patrolling the streets and that life was returning to normal.

"The town has been sealed off. There have been a few small clashes here, and there are minor outbreaks of fighting going on in outlying regions," he said.

Local authorities have declared a state of emergency in the town and surrounding regions.

The official said a group of Uzbek students had been allowed into the town to make sure their compatriots were safe.

On Thursday, Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin told parliament the unrest could explode into a major conflict engulfing the republics of Kirghizia and Uzbekistan.

Extra troops have been flown into the region to help local police keep order and prevent fighting between Uzbek and Kirghiz militants.

The conflict is one of the most serious outbreaks of ethnic violence in the volatile Central Asian region, where several hundred people have died in the past two years.

China warns of police action against protests

PEKING (R) — A Chinese Communist Party official Friday issued a veiled warning to Peking University students that police would be used against future unrest on the campus.

Hundreds of students staged a campus rally last Sunday and hurled bottles out of dormitory windows for two consecutive nights to mark the anniversary of last year's crackdown on the student-led democracy movement.

Lin Yanzhi, deputy party secretary at the university, was quoted by the official legal daily as saying: "Let any transgressions be dealt with by the law, the government and the state apparatus."

The reference to the state apparatus indicated next time police would take action.

Lin also told the students they were no longer the political force they had been in China's revolutionary past.

"I believe that from now on Peking University had best not try to depend on any student movement writing a big chapter in Chinese history. Times have changed," Lin was quoted as saying.

Many students believe the democracy movement they saw

crushed by tanks and troops last year and denounced by the party as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion," one day will be officially rehabilitated and hailed as patriotic.

Lin warned party officials and students belonging to the party not to get involved in any more campus protests.

Lin was shouted down by some students when he tried to intervene during the protests, a campus source said.

During this week's university protests, students smashed bottles in mockery of 85-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping, whose last name rhymes with the Chinese for "little bottle."

Though contained to the campus, it was the boldest act of defiance against the authorities in a year.

Heavily armed security forces stayed outside the university compound.

China's leaders met late at night shortly after Monday's protests and decided to deal with the unrest "severely," a party source said Thursday.

Students on the campus said Friday they knew of no arrests. Li Mingqi, a 20-year-old undergraduate who addressed the mass student rally Sunday night, was still at liberty, friends said.

Kashmir militants kill minister's uncle

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Kashmiri militants have shot dead the uncle of Indian Home Affairs (Interior) Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, police said Friday.

They said six militants forced their way into the home of 70-year-old Ghulam Hassan Shah in Sayeed's Kashmiri family village Thursday night and killed him.

Shah's killing was the second attack on the family of Sayeed, appointed India's first Muslim home minister in December by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Militants kidnapped his daughter, Rubiya, days after his appointment, releasing her in exchange for five of their jailed colleagues and reaping major propaganda gains from the incident.

Sayeed began a four-day visit to Kashmir Friday and had been due to go to his family's home in Bijbehara, 40 kilometres south of Jammu and Kashmir state's summer capital, Srinagar.

More than 550 people have died in Kashmir since January, when Delhi poured in security forces to crack down on a militant campaign for independence for India's only Muslim-majority state. The campaign has won widespread support in the Kashmir Valley.

The revolt has brought India close to a fourth war with neighbouring Pakistan, which holds a third of Kashmir and denies Indian charges that it arms the militants. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Hundreds of Kashmiris demonstrated in Sri Nagar's old quarter Friday, accusing security forces of shooting dead a two-year-old boy, Sarah Boshir.

The protesters said security-men forced their way into homes after their vehicles were attacked Thursday. During the incident they shot at Boshir's parents, wounding them critically and kill-

ing their son, the demonstrators said.

Some 50 members of parliament of Singh's Janata Dal Party demanded Sayeed's resignation last week for failing to control the violence both in Kashmir and in Punjab, where killings have risen this year in a decade-old Sikh separatist campaign.

Sayeed met Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman Thursday and Jammu Dal sources said they discussed possible candidates for the post of governor of Punjab.

Delhi has dissolved the regional assemblies of both Kashmir and Punjab and rules them directly through its governors.

Indian newspapers say the government is having a tough time trying to fill the Punjab post after Nirmal Mukharji resigned there last week.

Some 60 people have died in Punjab in the past four days alone as separatists step up bomb and gun attacks around the anniversary of the storming of the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar. India sent troops there in 1984 to expel militants.

Last month the government replaced Kashmir Governor Jagmohan with former foreign intelligence chief Girish Saxena. Jagmohan was accused by Kashmiris of allowing security force excesses.

Pakistan proposes talks

In a separate development, Pakistan Thursday proposed high-level talks with India to reduce border tension and military buildups that threaten to ignite a fourth war between the two uneasy neighbours.

The government called for the foreign secretaries, the highest-ranking civil servants, from both countries to meet later this month for talks at a mutually-agreed venue.

India presented a seven-point plan to Pakistan late last month aimed at ending months of di-

plomacy feuding and increased military buildups along their border.

Pakistan's response was delivered to New Delhi Tuesday following a meeting of the Defence Committee of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet.

Foreign Secretary Ahmad Khan said India's proposals did not address what he called the "core issues" — the dispute over Kashmir and the concentration of Indian forces. These issues, he said, must be discussed.

"Mutual confidence can be restored if there is a readiness to address the underlying cause of tension," Ahmad Khan told reporters.

"There is no earthly reason why Pakistan and India should fight shy of discussing the factors which have given rise to the dangerous situation in the past and have the potential of jeopardising peace and security in this region time and again," he said.

Ahmad Khan said the government set no pre-conditions for the proposed talks but suggested a "larger and broader" agenda than just the seven "confidence-building measures" outlined by India.

"We believe the situation demands an urgent meeting. It should not be delayed," he said.

Ahmad Khan said many of India's proposals included measures already being implemented — exchanging information about military exercises which in the past have brought the countries to the brink of war, avoiding violation of each other's airspace and contact between military commanders of both countries via a hotline, he said.

He also said three proposals had been discussed previously by the interior secretaries of both countries. These were implementing measures to combat illicit traffic across the border, assuring no interference in each other's internal affairs, and exchanging official delegations.

COLUMN

Michael Jackson leaves hospital

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop star Michael Jackson has left hospital, five days after being admitted with chest pains, a hospital supervisor said. Jackson's doctor Mark Zatzkis said the singer, who left hospital but was expected to return for outpatient treatment, had bruised his ribs during a vigorous dance rehearsal.

Jackson, 31, has undergone a lot of stress recently, with the deaths of his grandmother and close friend Sammy Davis Jr., his publicity agent Bob Jones said. "He is very concerned about his physical condition because we have an album well overdue," Jones added.

Jackson's current album is seven weeks behind schedule. Jackson visited close friend Elizabeth Taylor before leaving St. John's Hospital. The film star has been in hospital for seven weeks with pneumonia.

Schoolgirl goes into labour during exam

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (R) — A Saudi schoolgirl went into labour in the middle of a geography examination and shortly afterwards gave birth to a healthy boy. Ar Riyadh newspaper said Friday. The paper said women teachers at a secondary school in Riyadh interrupted the examination Wednesday and the girl, whose age was not given, was taken to a nearby clinic.

The young mother was the second in Riyadh to go into labour during this year's annual examinations, the paper said. The other schoolgirl also gave birth to a boy.

World Cup wedding for Irish fan

FALERMO (R) — Irish soccer fan Gerard Murphy is mixing pleasure with pleasure. He is getting married in Italy Saturday and taking his bride to Ireland's opening World Cup match against England.

Murphy and his bride-to-be Caroline, both from Dublin, will wed in the town of Gangi near the Sicilian capital Palermo, where Ireland are based for their group F matches. Mayor Tannino Mure said the town would lay on champagne for the couple and a carriage with a cavalcade of six horses to escort them from the church to their reception. The couple will start their honeymoon on a ferry bound for Sardinia, where Ireland play England on June 11 in their first appearance in the World Cup finals. "To be fair to my bride we are not just going to get married because the World Cup is on," said Murphy. "We'll be on holiday for four weeks and unless Ireland win the World Cup we'll probably take in just five hours of football."

Mayor threatens to castrate gasman

LONDON (R) — The mayor of a northern English town brandished a kitchen knife and threatened to castrate a gas worker drilling the road outside her house, a court heard Thursday.

Vera Lomax, 49, infuriated by the noise from the pneumatic drill, shouted at the worker and warned him she "liked sweetmeats for breakfast." Lomax, mayor of Rochdale, told the court she had received assertiveness training and admitted to being "self-righteous and prissy" at times. She was fined £300 (\$500) for threatening behaviour.

No earrings for policemen on-off-duty

CHICAGO (AP) — Earrings may be fine on pirates and punk-rockers, but not on a rural town's policemen, an appellate court ruled. The 7th U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that Peotone patrolmen Gary Zybak and Marvin Rathert cannot wear their ear studs — even when off duty. "I really shouldn't comment about the appellate court ruling without talking to my attorney," Rathert said. "I'm not quitting the force or leaving Peotone."

Zybak said Monday night in a telephone interview. "I'm very happy here. I've been here since 1968, and I consider it my hometown." Home-town values prevailed in the appellate decision, which upheld an earlier ruling by U.S. District Judge James Holderman in favour of the police chief and other officials in Peotone, a town of 3,000, 72 kilometres south of Chicago. "The record shows that even some family members and other colleagues were disturbed by the ear studs as much as were the city officials," wrote Appeals Judge Harrington Wood Jr.

De Klerk partly ends emergency rule, but Mandela wants more

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk has taken a big step towards meeting a key demand of the African National Congress (ANC), lifting the state of emergency everywhere in the country except strife-torn Natal province.

But ANC leader Nelson Mandela, although welcoming the end of emergency laws in three out of South Africa's four provinces, said De Klerk had not gone far enough to satisfy the black nationalist movement.

De Klerk announced an end to four-year-old emergency rule, the main stumbling block to talks between the government and the ANC on a political settlement, at a joint sitting of South Africa's three-chamber parliament Thursday.

He denounced what he called the ANC's lack of direction in important issues regarding the country's future.

"The time has now come for the ANC to state unequivocally where it stands on key issues," he said in his strongest attack on the movement since it was legalised in February.

Mandela, speaking in France on the first leg of a tour of Europe, North America and Africa, said that although he was happy to hear the news, the retention of special security powers in Natal would do nothing to stem the violence there.

"I don't think maintaining the state of emergency in the state of Natal will help because the emergency has been there since 1986, but has not helped to control the violence at all," he said.

Mandela warned European Community leaders against easing sanctions on South Africa during their Dublin summit on June 25.

"That would be a grave mistake and would certainly be regarded by the people of South Africa as a stab in the back for the anti-apartheid struggle," he told a news conference.

His close colleague Walter Sisulu told reporters in Johannesburg that the partial end to emergency rule would do nothing to help the situation.

"We are not asking for half measures, what we have asked for is to clear the atmosphere for negotiations, that is not done,"

he said.

The violence in Natal, where more than 1,000 blacks have died in political violence since the start of the year, could be stemmed if the government intervened to stop police brutality, Sisulu added.

Other anti-apartheid groups in South Africa reflected the ANC's cautious line, welcoming the end to emergency rule but calling on De Klerk to do more.

But the reformist president said he was confident that his announcement would speed the end of economic sanctions against South Africa, despite Mandela's pleas to the contrary.

The United States welcomed South Africa's decision to lift emergency rule in most areas but said it had still not fulfilled the conditions necessary for Washington to lift economic sanctions.

Britain also welcomed South Africa's decision but regretted violence in Natal meant restrictions would remain in the province.

As well as heralding the end of emergency rule, De Klerk also announced an extra injection of cash to fund security operations in Natal and the release of 48 political prisoners.

He gave no details of the prisoners to be released, but the number falls far short of the 3,000 people the ANC says are serving jail terms for political crimes.

Mandela not feeling well

In Geneva, Mandela cancelled a meeting with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Friday and a spokeswoman for the Swiss relief agency said he had returned to his hotel room where he was with his doctor. "He did not feel well after a news conference and had to cancel a meeting with (ICRC President Cornelio) Sommaruga," the spokeswoman said.

The South African nationalist leader, who underwent surgery recently, is on a gruelling 15-nation world tour and flew to Geneva from Paris Friday morning to address the European Labour Organisation (ILO).

Mandela, 71, made a 30-minute speech to the ILO before holding a news conference. "He did not feel well after the news

conference and had to return to his hotel," the ICRC spokeswoman said.

It was not clear whether he would have to cancel any more of his programme.

Mandela was to meet representatives of the World Council of Churches and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees before travelling to Berne for talks with Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber.

Before flying to Bonn Monday, Mandela planned to rest at a secret location near Geneva, U.N. sources said.

IN PARIS, where Mandela began the European leg of his tour on Wednesday, South African members of the welcoming party expressed serious concern about his taxing schedule.